



FOR BETTER TIMES

ILLINOIS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

One Mission, One Voice

a quarterly publication

Spring 2014

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ICADV is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Editors:

Kelly Goodall, Sarah Conlon, Andrea Wilson, Noelle Dupuis, Vickie Smith, Tess Sakolsky,

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Illinois Domestic Violence Helpline:
1-877-863-6338

State TTY:
1-877-863-6339

National Domestic Violence Hotline:
1-800-799-7233

National TTY:
1-800-787-3224

The NO MORE PSA Campaign, spearheaded by the Joyful Heart Foundation in partnership with NO MORE and directed by actress and advocate, Mariska Hargitay, involves more than 50 celebrities and public figures asking bystanders to get involved. You may have seen some of the PSA ads on television, in print or on the web.

What is NO MORE?

NO MORE is a new unifying symbol designed to galvanize greater awareness and action to end domestic violence and sexual assault. Supported by major organizations working to address these urgent issues, NO MORE is gaining support with Americans nationwide and sparking new conversations about these problems, moving this cause higher on the public agenda.

How can you say NO MORE? Say It. Share It. Show It. There are hundreds of ways you can spread the word about NO MORE.

Say it: Talk openly about violence against women. Break the silence. Speak out.

Share it: Help raise awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault by sharing NO MORE PSAs. Facebook it. Tweet it. Instagram it. Pin it.

Show it: Show NO MORE by wearing your NO MORE gear every day, supporting partner groups like ICADV, working to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and volunteering in your community.

To learn more about NO MORE or view more of their great PSAs, visit www.nomore.org.

NO MORE

"WE'RE NEVER GOING TO FIX IT"



nomore.org



Empowering Women. Expanding Awareness. Eradicating Violence.

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Allstate Grantee Updates - March 2014

The most exciting things happening this year is some Allstate grantees are incorporating community members in their projects. Whether it is an Allstate representative or other members in the community who have experience hiring and interviewing staff, it has been a great addition. Here are some updates from programs around the state.

Alton

Oasis Women's Center continues hosting groups on both Mondays and Wednesdays during the day. This is mainly for women who are currently in shelter, but they are looking for ways to also expand to some of their satellite locations.

Bloomington



Mid Central Community Action, Inc. holds groups each Wednesday evening for walk-in and shelter clients, and they invite facilitators who have the expertise to cover some of the topics, rather than having one staff do all the sessions. These groups have become a regular part of the agency's core services. Other good news from this agency is they have just began a partnership with a local Allstate agent. She participates in group discussions, answers questions and supports the clients in whatever way she can.

Champaign



The Center for Women in Transition reports that the program continues to go well and they have had good participation. Most of the clients come from shelters. They are working on adding a sixth session (week) to the Career Club Groups that will offer clients the chance to do a mock-interview. Additionally, they now collaborate with a local human resources professional who is able to come

to most groups and offer support and advice.

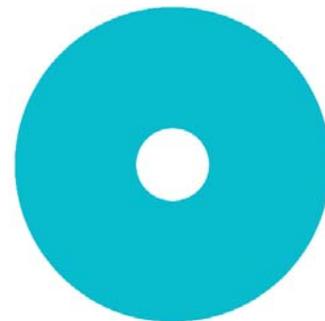
Chicago



Family Rescue is new to the Career Club this year. Rather than a five week session, they have been doing the full curriculum in two days with longer sessions. This has been working well and the groups have had a good flow to them. Doing the groups over a few days led to a higher completion rate. One success has been their partnership and collaboration when working with Women Employment Services. The organization reported that the women who came to them have been better prepared than other clients.

Chicago

KAN WIN  organizing their groups. They previously  edited and reworked the Career Empowerment Curriculum to meet the needs of their clients and that curriculum has been successful. They are currently looking at new ways to advertise and host the groups.



NO MORE

TOGETHER WE CAN END
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

Survivor Spotlight—A story through a suitcase...

**NO
MORE**
"WE DON'T TALK
ABOUT THAT"



**JOYFUL
HEARTS
FOUNDATION**

"This is my family...

One might think that my husband is missing from this picture...but he is there.

He is in the background...the storm always brewing in our life.

Sometimes the clouds only drizzle on us and sometimes they pour.

At times...lightening crashes and thunder rumbles our souls...we know severe weather is on its way.

Sure, we see the sun and blue skies at times, but there is no comfort there...only an eerie calm.

During those times the storm only rages in our minds and hearts...stealing our happiness and peace.

I keep us floating on an old, rickety raft of denial and false hope in rough waters waiting for the next storm.

We float around...bobbing and weaving...with what feels like the weight of the world on our shoulders...consuming thoughts and emotions swirling around in us...

The hand prints around the edge represent all the loving hands...the helping hands that are kept out of our reach by the storm and turmoil. We feel frozen time...stuck...

When you enter the suitcase...you get to experience our life through our children's eyes...the ones old enough to understand.

If you close and lock the suitcase and turn it over...you will see on the bottom what my daughter drew in counseling the other day...deep breath...we have been in our new storm-free happy house for several weeks now and we are all working toward healing. For the first time in a long time we feel safe and I feel like I am doing the right thing for my children...I struggle to unravel the lasting deep effects the storm has had on my heart and soul and person...but it will all be worthwhile to see my smiling, happy, safe kiddos running around enjoying life.

Peace, knowledge and the will to use it for the good of us all!"



Embellished suitcase-opened, the impact of living in violence.



Embellished suitcase-top, happy endings!!!



Embellished suitcase-bottom, surviving stormy times.

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Survivor Spotlight—gaining financial independence with a food truck

A domestic violence survivor contacted Rainbow House in October 2012. They were seeking legal and counseling services due to the two years of abuse that they and their family had experienced. The teenaged child disclosed they were being sexually abused for over a year and a half by the stepfather. The Stepfather was also giving the survivor's teenaged child marijuana and beer and encouraging them to skip school. The teenaged child also witnessed verbal and physical abuse and would defend the Mother when this occurred.

The survivor and her daughter received legal advocacy and counseling services through Rainbow House. They were active participants in support groups receiving education about the cycle of violence, the effects of domestic violence on children, and the different types of abuse that one can experience. The daughter received additional individual counseling to process her feelings associated with the trauma she sustained. Eventually, the client's daughter was able to press charges against her stepfather, who was found guilty and imprisoned.

The survivor became a single income household, which led to some thoughtful discussion between her and the Advocates at Rainbow House. She had always had the desire to be her own boss and obtain a food truck. So Rainbow House assisted the client with a grant from Web of Benefit an organization that provides grants to survivors of domestic violence in Boston and Chicago to help them achieve their goals. She used the money to pay for the truck license and City of Chicago permits.

The survivor was now well on her way to achieving



her dream, but she lacked the money to purchase the initial food and supplies to stock the truck.

About the same time, ICADV was receiving applications for the Emergency Assistance for Victims Fund. These small grants are available to survivors on a semi-annual basis, funds permitting, to assist them in achieving self-sufficiency. This survivor was awarded \$200 to purchase the materials needed to begin her business.

Now a typical day starts at 2am and ends around 1pm. The food truck gets set up around factories, selling mostly Mexican breakfast and lunch menu items. A rotating menu helps provide variety for her breakfast and lunch patrons. The survivor enjoys being an entrepreneur and providing quality food to her happy customers.

To learn more about or make a donation to the ICADV Emergency Assistance for Victims Fund, please visit our website at: www.ilcadv.org/donate.asp

NO MORE
TOGETHER WE CAN END
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

Another Successful NO MORE Teen Dating Abuse Video Challenge!



The NO MORE Teen Dating Abuse Video Challenge was co-hosted by ICADV and Lt. Governor Sheila Simon and sponsored by Verizon. In its second year, this challenge is the first of its kind in Illinois. Last September, all high schools throughout the state were encouraged to invite their students to submit a video that called for the end of

teen dating violence and promoted healthy relationships. ICADV received a number of awesome videos. Illinois has some very creative teens committed to ending teen dating abuse!

To recognize Teen Dating Violence Awareness month, which was in February, Lt. Governor Sheila Simon, ICADV, and representatives from



Vickie Smith, ICADV CEO

Verizon recognized four teens from Moline, IL, who were the first place winners of the NO MORE Teen Dating Abuse Video Challenge. At an awards ceremony held on February 28, 2014, Moline High School was presented \$1000 for hosting the winning students' entry and the winning student team received iPads. The second place winners, who were students from South Elgin Beacon Academy in South Elgin, IL, won iPad Minis. The third place winners, who were from Eastland Jr. Sr. High School in Lanark, IL, won Kindle Fire HDs.

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon's office has worked diligently to bring awareness to the issues faced by domestic violence survivors and what could be done to help those who still live with violence. "It is important that

young people can recognize signs of an unhealthy relationship and know how to get out," said Simon. "These students produced strong messages to help their peers identify the signs of unhealthy relationships and showed that it's never too late to seek help or speak up when you see a friend in trouble."

**NO
MORE**
"HE SAID
HE WAS SORRY"



**JOYFUL
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Lt. Governor with first place winners

ICADV's Chief Executive Officer, Vickie Smith, gave remarks on the teen involvement and the importance of the partnership with Verizon "Two primary components are highlighted by this project: the public and private partnerships with Verizon and the Lt. Governor's Office and the enthusiasm and engagement of the youth all working together to help end domestic violence in Illinois."

Brian Pascoe, region president at Verizon Wireless, said, "The unique perspective that teens bring to these videos is so important in helping to increase their understanding, awareness and communication on the topic of healthy relationships and

domestic violence. We are proud of their work and appreciate the opportunity to support this program with the Lt. Governor."

For more than a decade, Verizon, through its various business units and its philanthropic foundation, has been a champion of ending domestic violence. Verizon supports a broad range of programs that include: training health care practitioners and first responders about screening for signs of abuse; engaging men as role models and advocates for prevention; educating teens about preventing dating violence; providing resources for domestic prevention organizations and survivors; and using health information technology to enable better chronic disease outcomes.



David Finch and Michael McMahon from Verizon with first place winners

Look for information related to next year's Challenge this summer! To learn more about the challenge or to view the winning videos visit www.ilcadv.org.

NO MORE

"SHE WAS
ASKING FOR IT"



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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
& SEXUAL ASSAULT

www.nomore.org



Marsy's Law

After many years of struggling to place a constitutional amendment for victims' rights on the ballot, Marsy's Law has finally passed and will go for a public vote in November. Despite having 10 basic rights already enshrined in the Illinois State Constitution, victims in Illinois have seen repeated and egregious violations, such as not being notified of a perpetrator's upcoming release from prison or denial of the opportunity to make a Victim Impact Statement. Victims have trouble asserting their rights in court because many judges do not believe they have the required standing (or a sufficient connection to the criminal proceeding at hand) to speak.

When it came time to address these violations, the Attorney General's Office partnered with the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA), Illinois Crime Victims, and the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) to work on passing Marsy's Law. The law takes its name from a young woman in California who was murdered by her abuser. On the way home from their daughter's funeral, Marsy's parents ran into her killer at the supermarket. Nobody had notified Marsy's family that he had been released on bail. After this experience, Marsy's family organized a foundation to help ensure that victims across the United States had the standing required to assert their constitutional and statutory rights in court.



After passage of the law was blocked in the Illinois Senate in late 2012, the advocates determined that the best way to garner support for the amendment would be to speak with members of the State's Attorneys Association in person about their concerns. Over the course of three months in late 2013, ICASA and ICADV organized meetings with more than 35 different states attorneys. We spent countless hours discussing constitutional language before we finally came together in support of one unified amendment in late February. With the leadership of Representative Lou Lang and Senator Heather Steans, we were finally able to see the amendment pass with flying colors in both the House and the Senate.

But our work isn't over just yet. This summer, the ICADV will be working with ICASA, the Attorney General's Office and Illinois Crime Victims to mount a public awareness campaign for the amendment. We will be speaking with voters across the state to help them understand why Marsy's Law is important and why they should vote "yes" on November 4!

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Executive Director's Note:

Contributor: **Vickie Smith**, Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of ICADV



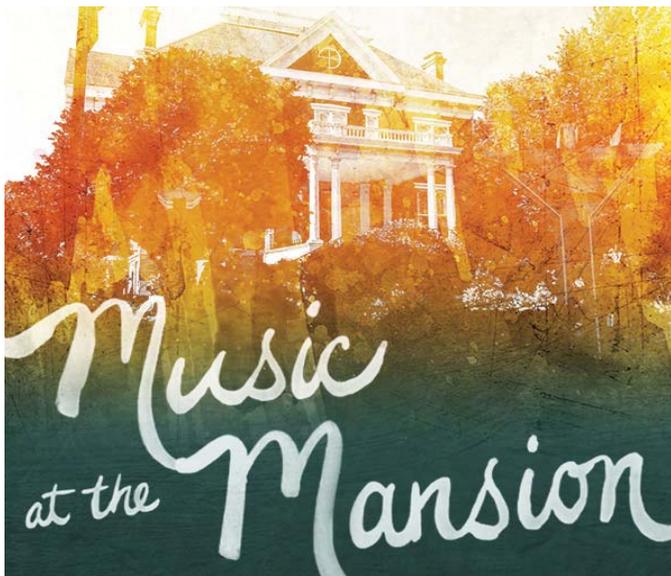
This Spring has brought new challenges to our member programs in terms of finding resources to continue to work toward the elimination of domestic violence. Between the weather and shrinking resources, more reporting and more grant writing, local member programs are struggling to get the message out, report what they are doing and actually work directly with domestic violence victims and their dependents.

I have heard people say that elimination of domestic violence is too remote a goal to achieve. But how can we work toward anything less? Domestic violence tears apart families, the very core of our society. If we are not constantly striving to eliminate domestic violence in our communities and our state, then we are saying we accept some level of this horrible epidemic, and I personally am not willing to accept that notion.

One of the ways ICADV and its members are working to eliminate domestic violence is through prevention presentations. Our NOMORE Teen Dating AbuseVideo Challenge has proven successful in engaging high school students across the state to bring messages to their peers and to adults that controlling and harmful behavior between people is unacceptable and there is help available.

Another activity that takes place in many of our local member programs is economic literacy and career assistance trainings. Learning to manage financial resources is at the heart of safety planning for most domestic violence victims. Once an individual learns about budgeting and credit as well as gaining and maintaining employment, they are on a path to life changing circumstances for themselves and their children.

The success story highlighted in this issue of *For Better Times* illustrates how a small investment of money and support can help to change the lives of victims and their children. This story also points out the need to collaborate in our communities to reach our goal. Everyone has a part to play in eliminating domestic violence, including you, Reader! Whether you are an advocate, a policy maker, a business person, a school teacher, or retired, there is a way for you to help. Volunteer, a little or a lot. Talk to your local book club or church group. Talk around the water cooler. Visit your local high school to see what prevention activities are taking place. Write a check. Read more articles about domestic violence. Join us to help achieve the elimination of domestic violence in Illinois.



SAVE THE DATE!

FRIDAY - JUNE 13, 2014
from 5:30PM - 8:30PM

GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE MANSION
5th & Jackson Streets, Springfield

Enjoy a performance by the Frank Parker Jambalaya New Orleans Jazz Band, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar.

This event benefits the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Look for more details later this month on how to buy tickets. Find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @ILCADV, or visit www.ilcadv.org.



NOMORE | TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

Event sponsored by the Sangamon County Bar Association.
Promotional material design generously donated by Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc.

Interested in sponsoring an event?
Call 217.789.2830 or email ilcadv@ilcadv.org for more details.

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