



ILLINOIS COALITION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



# FOR BETTER TIMES

One Mission, One Voice

a quarterly publication

Fall 2013

## ICADV's Domestic Violence Awareness Month Media Event

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

### Editors:

Sarah Conlon  
Stacey Davis  
Kelly Goodall  
Tess Sakolsky  
Vickie Smith

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

**TTY: 1-877-863-6339**

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

**TTY: 1-800-787-3224**

Thank you to the Allstate Foundation for hosting a breakfast in Chicago on October 16, 2013 and helping ICADV bring attention to the many lives that were lost last year due to intimate partner violence. Over 70 representatives from the media, universities, domestic violence agencies, government agencies and other stakeholders heard state and national leaders in domestic violence services highlight partnerships in prevention and intervention that are essential to reducing domestic violence deaths.

“October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This is the time to bring attention to the lives lost each year due to this senseless violence inflicted by an intimate partner,” said Vickie Smith, Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of ICADV. “Finding resources for this crucial prevention and intervention work is sometimes difficult. Corporate partners like The Allstate Foundation help close that gap for domestic violence service providers.”

“Every life lost to domestic violence impacts the entire community,” said Kim Gandy, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). “Only by working together to change social norms, enact common-sense laws, and



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commit the necessary resources can we begin to ensure physical safety and economic security for victims of abuse and their children.”

To gather information about these incidents, ICADV researches online media outlets for articles pertaining to domestic violence homicides in Illinois. Since ICADV began collecting this information in 2009, nearly 300 lives have been lost due to intimate partner violence in Illinois. Highlights from this fourth annual report released by ICADV are provided below and the full report may be viewed at <http://www.ilcadv.org/HomicideReportFY13.pdf>.

“It’s tragic that in our country each day an average of three women die because of domestic violence,” said Vicky Dinges, vice president of corporate responsibility at Allstate. “We know how real these statistics are in our home state of Illinois. The Allstate Foundation helps stem the tide of domestic violence by helping people start conversations about it.”

**See page 9 for homicide data highlights.**

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[www.ilcadv.org](http://www.ilcadv.org) ~ [ilcadv@ilcadv.org](mailto:ilcadv@ilcadv.org) ~ phone: 217-789-2830 ~ fax: 217-789-1939 ~ TTY: 217-241-0376

## Partnerships for an Exciting Future

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

As this newsletter is going to print, ICADV and its members are wrapping up another Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). October has been designated DVAM since the mid-eighties. There has been discussion amongst advocates over the years to move to another month because of the strong focus on breast cancer awareness, another very important health issue. However, local domestic violence agencies have long histories of holding vigils to remember victims who have died or events that honor individuals that have made significant contributions to ending domestic violence. We will continue to hold this month as DVAM for the foreseeable future. Whenever you put on your pink, also add your purple during October.



Beginning in November, ICADV will institute a new governance structure that we believe will enhance our influence and affluence in Illinois to end domestic violence. In order to create safe homes for victims and their children and to hold abusers accountable for their behavior it takes all of us. Not for profits, corporations, government and private citizens must work together to educate each other and to create systems and policies that really address this epidemic. We believe that operating with a Board of Directors comprised of representatives of the membership of ICADV along with professionals from banking, media, foundations and business will increase our ability to create programs focused on ending domestic violence. We are very excited about this new way of operating and look forward to what the future brings. This letter will give you an idea of a few of the initiatives that ICADV is working on and believe that the new Board will help us create even more projects to address various aspects of domestic violence.

ICADV has many plans to engage Illinois citizens in activities to help reduce domestic violence. For the second year in a row we are hosting, along with Lt. Governor Sheila Simon, our NO MORE Teen Dating Abuse Video Challenge sponsored by Verizon. High schools students are submitting 30 second videos that call for the end of teen dating violence and promote healthy relationships. Based on last year's entries we really look forward to the creative efforts of students around Illinois. The winners will be announced in February during Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

For the fourth year in a row, ICADV released our Domestic Violence Homicide Report during DVAM, this time with a press breakfast in Chicago. With support from Allstate Foundation, we had a nice turnout as well as good press coverage. More importantly a journalism class from Columbia College attended and helped spur some excellent discussion following the presentations by myself, Vicky Dinges from Allstate, and Kim Gandy from the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

Another ICADV project that has been supported by Lt. Governor Simon is the Virtual Legal Clinic. It has been piloted in Central and Southern Illinois and there is hope to expand to several Northern Illinois counties by the end of this calendar year. This project has been incredibly helpful to the survivors that have taken advantage of an hour of pro bono consultation with a licensed attorney to discuss a myriad of issues that affect safety planning. In turn the attorneys are reporting great satisfaction in being able to help domestic violence victims.

I invite you to join ICADV as a Friend if you have not already or share this newsletter with a friend and invite them to join us. Thank you for whatever part you play in ending domestic violence in Illinois.

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## ICADV Virtual Legal Clinic

For almost two years, ICADV, in partnership with the office of Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon have been piloting a project called Virtual Legal Clinic (VLC). With a supportive grant from the Illinois Bar Foundation, ICADV began with one site in Peoria and established through Skype technology the opportunity to provide up to one hour of consultation with a Pro Bono attorney for a survivor of domestic violence. The consultation provides the survivor with the opportunity to explore legal questions and options regarding any aspect of the survivor's life. Examples of these consultative conversations include landlord/ tenant issues, immigrant and UVisa issues, custody and visitation questions, etc. After the consultation, the survivor may or may not decide to pursue legal representation from a different attorney. The local domestic violence program provides a private space that has a computer and the attorney can work from their office or home with a computer to make the connection. The Lieutenant Governor's office recruited the attorneys and developed the process for exploring any conflict of interest between the attorney and the domestic violence survivor.



Two additional sites now exist in Jacksonville and Cairo. Soon sites will be added in several more counties in Northern Illinois. The feedback from both survivors and attorneys has been overwhelmingly positive. Survivors feel respected and listened to and the attorneys report feeling very gratified to be helpful. ICADV feels strongly that the VLC is a very important service to victims of domestic violence and sincerely appreciates the support of the Illinois Bar Foundation and the partnership of Lieutenant Governor Shelia Simon.

## Become a Friend of ICADV!

For \$25 a year, you can support our mission to end domestic violence in Illinois. Friends of ICADV receive public policy alerts as well as information about any upcoming ICADV trainings and events.

Visit our web site today to download the application and assurances forms.

[http://www.ilcadv.org/Get\\_Involved/JoinICADV/join\\_icadv.html](http://www.ilcadv.org/Get_Involved/JoinICADV/join_icadv.html)





## Spotlight a Program—Decatur

Domestic Violence Advocates and Law Enforcement can successfully work together on behalf of victims of domestic violence. Dove Inc. (Dove), the domestic violence program in Decatur, IL has proven that it can be done. Dove Legal Advocacy Supervisor and Legal Advocates work effectively with the Decatur Police Department and the Macon County Sheriff's Office on a regular basis.

The relationship between Dove and the Decatur Police Department was strengthened when a Lieutenant within the department was designated to be a liaison between Dove and patrol officers. Monthly meetings are held to discuss any problems and concerns. This ongoing communication has given each agency a better understanding of each others policies. The working relationship improved significantly when Dove's legal advocates participated in police ride alongs with the Decatur patrol officers. The advocates could see and appreciate the challenges they go through during their shifts. It also gave Dove the opportunity to share information about one another's jobs and talk about domestic violence.

As relationships strengthened Dove staff were able to participate in the Decatur Police Department's annual training. The whole experience was enlightening as advocates were seen in a different light. Law enforcement officers could see that Dove advocates actually had a sense of humor and debunked the myth that all domestic violence advocates were "men haters". Mutual respect was gained by all individuals. Another piece of this collaboration was Dove staff were allowed to present domestic violence information to Decatur law enforcement officers. Through these presentations the officers understood that Dove and the Decatur Police Department were having similar frustrations and work with the same repeat victims and repeat abusers. An added mutual benefit is that Dove legal advocates continue to be involved in presenting domestic violence information to new officers.

Over time there has been an increase in positive police responses to victims of domestic violence. Additionally, law enforcement officers have been providing victims with safety planning, domestic violence information, and making referrals to the Dove shelter as a need for their safety. The Macon County Sheriff's office has also assigned a liaison to Dove and they attend Dove's monthly meetings with the Decatur Police Department.

The Macon County Sheriff understands the dynamics of domestic abuse. When he became sheriff he brought this domestic violence awareness with him from when he was a deputy. He passes this awareness along to his deputies. All challenges regarding domestic violence issues are thoughtfully and respectfully handled through the Sheriff's liaison. Legal advocates plan to take time to schedule a ride along with deputies when they serve Orders of Protection and to present at their squad meetings.

Dove has begun to recognize outstanding law enforcement officers with a plaque at their annual candlelight service for the compassion and respect they have shown toward victims of domestic violence. The hard work that Dove has done by effectively working with law enforcement has definitely been worth the journey as victims are reaping the reward in being treated with sensitivity, respect, kindness and compassion.

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## Spotlight a Program—Sterling



The YWCA of the Sauk Valley is grateful to the local Illinois State Police for the positive impact they make on the lives of families that have experienced domestic violence.

For the last six years, the State Police District 1 Unit has taken the initiative to throw a Christmas Party for some of the families served. Since police do sometimes come to the homes of children we serve, the officers wanted

to demonstrate that troopers and police officers are good people that want them to be happy and safe, rather than being bad or scary.



Illinois State Police holiday party with children checking out squad car.

YWCA staff choose the families to attend the party and provide the party space and staff time. The troopers work hard to organize the party, starting with buying personalized gifts for each child. They also hire a Santa for the evening to hand out the children’s gifts. The troopers provide pizza, play games with the children, and give them a chance to explore the squad car. A volunteer photographer takes a professional picture of each family, giving

them a framed 5”X7” copy.

According to YWCA staff, this collaborative project has helped to forge a very positive relationship with the local State Police. In addition, the families are very grateful for the wonderful party and gifts, along with the Santa time and the family photos. The children learn that officers are there to help them, and that kind and generous people are part of their world.



Illinois State Police holiday party with domestic violence program staff.

# Survivors Receive Employment Advocacy

In 2012, the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence received a grant from the Allstate Foundation's Financial Empowerment Grant Program for their program called Career Club: Employment



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Support and Strategies for Survivors of Domestic Violence. This program, which began in 2011, provides employment support and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence at local domestic violence programs. In 2012, eight domestic violence programs in Illinois received funds to implement an employment support group using the Career Empowerment Curriculum created by the Allstate Foundation, the National Network to End Domestic Violence and Women Employed.



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At the end of the grant cycle, programs reported great success. Having the time, space, and support to search for employment, while also addressing issues related to domestic violence, has been integral for survivors seeking self-sufficiency and economic independence. The Employment Curriculum is paired with the domestic violence specific financial education curriculum, also created by the Allstate Foundation and the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Over the course of the year, 261 victims of domestic violence participated in Career Club Support Groups while 172 were able to complete the five section curriculum. Programs reported that 103 of attendees (39%) gained new or better employment in the course of the grant year.



from survivors who participated in the program. One survivor, Barbara, was reluctant to leave her abuser because she wasn't currently working. As she struggled with addiction and with a felony on her record, it was difficult to find work. As her situation became more violent, she knew she had to leave. During her first week in shelter she found work through a local temporary labor agency, but the work wasn't steady and the hours were difficult. Barbara continued to look for something better and in Career Club she learned how to effectively present herself in interviews and how to talk about her felony conviction. She received support from domestic violence program staff and the other women in group and eventually was hired as a prep cook at a local restaurant.

Another survivor, Lisa reported: "The Career Empowerment group was very helpful to me. The class helped me choose a career and helped me set goals. I would recommend the class to anyone, whether they are a victim of domestic violence abuse or they just need help choosing a career, setting goals for themselves, or if they need help with financial planning."

ICADV is pleased to announce that this grant from the Allstate Foundation has been continued for a third year. Eight ICADV member programs will continue to receive support to provide economic advocacy for survivors in

the coming year and continue with this successful intervention.

Even more important has been anecdotal stories

## ICADV Helps Survivors Gain Self-Sufficiency

In 2012, ICADV established the Emergency Assistance for Victims Fund (EAVF). This competitive grant program is available several times per year, funds permitting, to assist survivors of domestic violence in gaining self-sufficiency. Each survivor can apply for up to \$200 to help with small, but important, expenses to assist with economic stability. The guidelines are deliberately broad to provide an opportunity to help with expenses that are often difficult to find assistance.

The spring of 2013 EAVF awarded six grants. Two survivors of domestic violence received funds to help with their immigration process: one for legal fees and the other for a needed medical exam. Two survivors received funds to assist them with high utility bills that allowed them to maintain their housing. Below are the stories of the remaining two grantees.

After receiving both medical advocacy and emergency shelter services, Mary (not her real name) recently moved into the transitional housing program at the local domestic violence program. Since leaving her abusive partner, she has been able to maintain steady employment and focus on her goals. Her cosmetology license was coming up for renewal, she didn't have the funds to pay for it and without her license she wouldn't be able to continue working. Additionally, cosmetology supplies are expensive and it was difficult to get what she needed. With the small grant from the Emergency Assistance for Victims Fund, Mary was able to renew her license and buy the supplies she needed. She hopes to become certified as a cosmetology instructor or continue her education in another field. Mary continues to save up for a car, pay off her debt, and hopes to purchase her own home in a few years.

Yasmin (not her real name) and her daughter have made strides in their recovery since seeking services



from a domestic violence program in Chicago. To support them both, Yasmin continued to work odd jobs and was making repairs to the basement of her new home so that she could rent it out for additional income. Yasmin's biggest step forward in her goal of independence has been starting a food truck business. Before starting her food truck, Yasmin made money selling homemade tamales. She knew that she had the talent to earn a living selling food and snacks, but didn't have the money she needed to start a business for herself. The grant from the Emergency Assistance for Victims Fund allowed her to purchase a business license from the City of Chicago as well as buy additional supplies for her food truck. Yasmin now earns enough money to support herself and her daughter. While she still works long, hard hours, the food truck allows her the freedom to set her hours so that she can spend more time with her daughter.

The EAVF has been a wonderful support for survivors of domestic violence in Illinois. To make a donation for this fund, please go to [www.ilcadv.org](http://www.ilcadv.org)

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RESPECT

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Second Annual  
**NO MORE**

Teen Dating Abuse  
Video Challenge

Hosted by:  
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Lt. Governor Sheila Simon

Sponsored by:



ICADV has partnered up again this year with Verizon and Lt. Governor Sheila Simon to host the second annual NO MORE Teen Dating Abuse Video Challenge. With Verizon's generous support of \$15,000 and the continued partnership with the Lt. Governor's Office, ICADV has invited Illinois high school age teens to submit a short PSA type video calling for the end of teen dating violence and promoting healthy relationships. Videos will target teens, promote positive behaviors in relationships and have elements of creativity and fun.

Last year was our first project of this kind and it was a huge success. We had over 39 member domestic violence agencies that participated -- from north of Chicago to Cairo, from the Quad Cities to Kankakee, and everywhere in between. We estimate that over 310 high schools and teen organizations throughout the state received the materials. We received a total of 37 entries created by over 130 very creative adolescents. Selecting winners was so difficult as the competition was fierce. We had so many great entries. You may view last year's winners at <http://www.ilcadv.org/VideoChallenge2012.html>.

Submissions to this year's challenge were due October 31, 2013 and we plan to announce the winners in February, which is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Thank you to Verizon and Lt. Governor Sheila Simon for helping us engage teens in saying NO MORE to teen dating violence! To learn more about the NO MORE campaign against domestic and sexual violence against women visit [www.nomore.org](http://www.nomore.org)

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# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE REPORT JULY 2012-JUNE 2013

In fiscal year 2013, July 2012 through June 2013, 58 domestic violence (dv) homicide incidents took the lives of 80 individuals in Illinois. This report summarizes what the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) learned about these incidents where a domestic violence situation became fatal.

## Child Homicide Victims

In fiscal year 2013 there were nine victims under the age of 18. The age of the child victims ranged from infant to 17 years old, five were under the age of six. Means of death and ages for the child victims:

- (3) Stabbing—5, 7, and 17 year old.
- (3) Firearms—1, 5, and 16 year old.
- (1) Physical assault without a weapon—8 months old,
- (1) Arson—4 year old.
- (1) Blunt force trauma with a weapon—1 year old.

## Adult Homicide Victims

In fiscal year 2013 there were 59 adult victims, 37 were female and 22 were male. The victims ranged in age from 19 to 86 years old. Firearms accounted for 21 of the 59 adult victim homicides. The second highest means of death was caused by stabbing which accounted for 15 of the adult homicides.

## Perpetrator Suicides

In fiscal year 2013 there were 12 perpetrators (all males) who committed suicide after committing homicide(s). These deaths are included in the grand total for fiscal year 2013 as they are domestic violence related. Firearms accounted for eight of the 12 suicides.

The full report can be viewed through this link: <http://www.ilcadv.org/HomicideReportFY13.pdf>

**She's a knockout...**

**1 in 4 American women** report that a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives has physically abused them.\*

This could be your **sister**, your **daughter**, your **neighbor**, your **friend**, ... **you**.

**Help is out there.**

**Break the silence!** If you or someone you know is being abused, you are not alone. Seek help today.

**24-Hour Hotlines:**

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**Illinois Statewide Domestic Violence Help Line**  
(877) TO END DV (877-863-6338)  
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