

For Better Times

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We dedicate this newsletter to all the advocates in Illinois who continue to do the hard work even with all the financial short-falls that have remained a constant over the last few years.

Thanks for helping to keep survivors of domestic violence and their children safe.

"SHINE THE LIGHT" A SURVIVOR'S STORY



Olga began attending a Latina support group after experiencing many years of abuse,

first within her family of origin and then from her

husband of ten years. She heard about the local domestic violence program from her friend.

Olga had many obstacles when it came to the decision of leaving her husband. She was undocumented and had only lived in the United States for a couple of years. She spoke very little English and did not have a job. Olga had two young children who did not speak English.

The abuse from her husband started as verbal, then emotional and escalated to sexual and

financial

by the time she was ready to get some help. Olga's husband controlled everything she did. Her children were learning early on that keeping quiet and siding with their Father helped to keep his anger at bay.

Olga did not want her daughters to continue to be influenced by their Father's abuse and began bringing them in for counseling. She soon noticed changes in their behavior and in her own, but those were not the only changes that Olga would experience.

Her husband's abuse became worse. In

a very short period of time there were multiple physically violent episodes. One particular episode resulted in enough bruising and cuts that she could have easily had her husband arrested had she called the police. After discussing at length all of her options, Olga chose not to press charges because she did not feel safe to do so while still living with her husband. However,

she was fearful enough for herself and her children that she made arrangements to leave.

It was during this time that Olga's children learned quite a bit of English in school. Olga also began learning English, by helping her children with their homework. She began to feel comfortable communicating with the non-Spanish speaking child advocate at the domestic violence program. Olga and her children continued utilizing the support services at the domestic violence program. Olga kept in regular contact with her domestic violence counselor for information and support.

Over the course of eight months Olga changed her life dramatically.

She and her children are now living in their own home. She has a job and is financially stable and is in the process of legally divorcing her husband. Olga's children are learning that, as a woman, you have a right to voice your opinion and not be controlled in relationships. Without the constant reinforcement from their Father, the children's behavior with their Mother is improving.

Olga did not want to take any legal action

until she and her children were no longer living with her husband. Now that she is separated from her husband she calls the police and documents any incidents involving him as part of her safety plan.

Olga still faces challenges. The divorce proceedings are ongoing. Her husband threatens to kidnap the children and return to Mexico. When he does see the children he tries to turn them against their mother. He will often say he will pick up and visit with his children, then not show up at the designated time and place. One way Olga decided to combat the manipulation was to arrange to bring the children to their Father's home. His actions spoke for him when he was not there to meet them. The children understood.

The domestic violence program's services were effective for Olga

because of its Latina Program. She did not have to worry about her status impacting what services were available to her. She did not need to find a translator or struggle with trying to speak in a foreign language during counseling or points of crisis. She had women in her support group with whom she could relate to culturally and who gave her a sense of community. She was able to help her children by bringing them for group support and counseling. Olga found a sense of self worth, control and empowerment over her life and her situation.

All identifying names and locations were purposefully removed, or changed, to protect the confidentiality of all survivors and advocates mentioned in this story.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATE--WE ARE MORE THAN EMERGENCY SHELTER...

Midnight	Talked with a survivor and listened to her story. Supported her as she shared details from a past episode of domestic violence that keeps her awake into the early hours of most mornings.
1:00am	Answered the shelter door for a police officer who brought a victim and her children to the shelter for their safety. Answered crisis hotline.
2:00am	Completed all the required paperwork for the new victim in shelter. Assigned her and the children a bedroom and provided her with fresh linens and personal hygiene products.
3:00am	Completed a walk through of the shelter for a security check. Answered a hotline call and talked a victim through some safety planning ideas.
4:00am	Was available for a few victims in shelter who get up early for work. Answered crisis hot line.
5:00am	Was available for anyone who needed help getting ready for the day.
6:00am	Had breakfast with survivors and their children staying in shelter. Answered three crisis hotline calls.
7:00am	Conducted a brief house meeting with survivors staying in shelter. Assisted with survivors getting their medications when and if needed. Discussed maintenance issues with Lead Residential Worker at shelter. Answered a hot line call from the county sheriff's office trying to help a victim find safety.
8:00am	Briefed incoming advocate on significant events that happened overnight. Assisted clients with any phone calls they needed to make. Picked up client from a motel and transported to shelter. Accompanied clients to court to obtain an order of protection.
9:00am	Took client's pet to the local vet for safe boarding. Answered crisis hotline. Discussed safety planning with client in crisis via telephone. Reviewed client's service plans at a staff meeting with fellow advocates. Took a clothing donation and wrote a receipt for the individual making the donation.
10:00am	Completed the intake process for two victims Assisted client in filling out an order of protection. Briefed workers regarding their assignments for the day. Met with Mental Health Representative regarding clients to be seen today and reminded clients about their appointments.
11:00am	Answered a hotline call from the local hospital referring one of its patients to shelter due to abuse from husband. Picked up patient from hospital and brought to shelter. Completed case collaboration with another Advocate. Had a telephone conversation with a former client who was requesting follow-up services. Prepared and typed a letter for the client to pick-up today.
Noon	Ate lunch with survivors in shelter. Transported client to medical appointment. Worked on service plan with client. Answered two crisis hotline calls. Completed case collaboration with the Family Program and Women's Advocate. Completed telephone supervision with Program Director.
1:00pm	Advocated for client with housing authority and energy assistance. Met with Health Services Representative regarding clients to be seen today. Received Incoming call from assigned client. Contacted a Family Health Clinic to schedule an appointment for client, met with the client to advise of scheduled appointment. Prepared required agency documents to accompany client to appointment. Provided crisis hotline telephone coverage.
2:00pm	Individual counseling session with a teen dating violence victim. Conducted an individual play therapy session with one of the children receiving services from the program.

SURVIVORS RECEIVED 574,478 HOURS OF SERVICE (state fiscal year 2008-2009)

3:00pm	Transported client to several local used clothing centers to obtain needed clothing for herself and her children. Worked on case collaboration with local health services agency and assigned advocate to client needing services. Met with assigned client and updated service plan. Received incoming call from former client. Documentation of all client contacts seen throughout the day. Answered crisis hotline.
4:00pm	Offered individual counseling and parenting assistance to client.
	Met with assigned client to review goals and needs
	Met with former client and provided follow-up services as requested.
	Worked on case collaboration with Program Director and mental health care provider for providing substance abuse and alcohol abuse service on-site to residents.
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5:00pm	Prepared for children's support group offered later in the day.
	Completed case collaboration with Therapeutic Representative for follow-up. Conducted a discharge procedure with client.
	Provided client update to Program Director.
5.00	
6:00pm	Answered crisis hot line for four counties.
7:00pm	Provided an individual counseling session with a walk-in client on safety planning.
8:00pm	Assisted client with medications and chores.
9:00pm	Assisted client with conflicts and her children.
10:00pm	Talked with client and helped her get her children in bed.
	Answered crisis hotline
11:00pm	Did a shelter check and to make sure the building was secure.
	Assisted any clients who were still up and made sure they were comfortable.
	Answered crisis hotline call from State Police on behalf of a victim in a rural county.
	Answered crisis notine can from state route on behalf of a victim in a rural county.

Reduced and stagnant funding resulted in fewer survivors of domestic violence, including child witnesses, receiving services. Due to lack of resources, the number of survivors to whom we have provided shelter decreased by 8%, while the number of victims we turned away increased by 24% over the last three years.

While safe shelter is a crucial part of what survivors need to escape the violence in their lives, only about 16% of survivors served by domestic violence programs last year received emergency shelter or transitional housing. 84% of all survivors we served received nonresidential services, but no shelter. Domestic violence programs provide a wide variety of services for adult survivors of domestic violence and their children:

- Counseling and therapy help survivors and their children better understand the dynamics of domestic violence and provide them emotional support to help them heal after experiencing the trauma of domestic violence. (331,531 hours provided state fiscal year 2008-2009)
- Legal advocacy helps provide survivors and their children a better understanding of their rights under the Illinois Domestic Violence Act, ways to increase safety by seeking orders of protection, and support during criminal cases against their batterers. (126,395 hours provided state fiscal year 2008-2009)
- Other supportive services we provide include helping survivors rebuild their relationships with their children because of the damage caused by
 domestic violence, providing a means of transportation and safe child care that helps survivors attend court hearings, job interviews, school, and
 other appointments. (77, 839 hours provided state fiscal year 2008-2009)
- By helping survivors obtain job skills, education, housing, and increasing financial literacy skills, we are helping survivors increase economic sufficiency which is needed to successfully leave an abusive relationship. (38,713 hours provided state fiscal year 2008-2009)

A total of 574,478 hours of advocacy for domestic violence victims was provided in one year.

That's 11,047 hours a week or 1,578 hours a day or for every hour of the day domestic violence Advocates provided over

65 hours worth of advocacy. (state fiscal year 2008-2009)

Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, Hospitals AND Domestic Violence Programs provide services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

BECOME A MEMBER OF ICADV, CHOOSE THE LEVEL THAT FITS BEST.

ICADV FRIEND

Requirements: An individual who supports the vision and mission of ICADV. Potential Friend members must review and sign ICADV's assurances document found at http://www.ilcadv.org/Get_Involved/JoinICADV/join_icadv.html.

Fee: \$25.00 per year

Benefits: Friends will receive information regarding trainings, public policy, newsletters and monthly electronic mailings.

ICADV COMMUNITY PARTNER

Requirements: Non-profits, for-profits, and government agencies that support the vision and mission of ICADV and are acceptable to local ICADV members. Potential Community Partner members must review and sign the assurances document found at http://www.ilcadv.org/Get_Involved/JoinICADV/join_icadv.html. This level of membership goes through a review process by the ICADV Membership Committee.

Fee: \$250.00 per year

Benefits: Community Partners will receive information regarding trainings, newsletters, public policy and by monthly electronic mailings. Community Partners receive up to \$100 worth of ICADV resources, chosen by the Community Partner and may sit on ICADV committees.

ICADV VOTING BOARD MEMBER

Requirements: Non-profits or for-profits that support the vision and mission of ICADV and are acceptable to local ICADV members. Potential Voting Board Members must review and sign our assurances document found at http://www.ilcadv.org/Get_Involved/Joinl-CADV/join_icadv.html. There are additional criteria that must be met for membership at this level.

This category is made up of two types:

- · Domestic Violence Service Provider
- · Partner Abuse Intervention Program

For more information on any level of membership contact Jacqueline Ferguson at ferguson@ilcadv.org

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is spring and all local domestic violence programs should be working on plans and proposals for FY11 budgets. But this is a spring like no other. Only 14% of all the local domestic violence programs funded by the State of Illinois have been paid for any of the services they have been providing since December. How long could you survive if you hadn't been paid for six months?

I have been amazed at the number of times I have been asked if the programs are doing local fund-raising. Of course, that is a large part of their annual budgets. This year however, the local fund-raising is going toward the services that are supposed to be paid for by the state. By not paying their bills, the State is draining the other resources these programs rely upon. There is not enough private support from individuals and foundations to make up the difference in the costs of protecting domestic violence victims and their children.

Is this the plan? Does someone think it would be better if some of these programs have to close because of the deadbeat State? Maybe they should be reading their local paper. Just since May, 2009, 82 individuals have died in 59 domestic violence incidents in Illinois. The cost of shutting down these programs in our communities is astronomical.

I want to tell you about the successes that individuals experience after they have contacted a local domestic violence program. But right now all focus is on remaining available to victims and their children. The elected officials must resolve the budget crisis by all available means so that these local domestic violence programs can get back to the business of saving Illinois families.

Vickie Smith

Executive Director
The Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

109 Domestic Violence Counts Illinois Summary

On September 15, 2009, 62 out of 68, or 91%, of identified local domestic violence programs in Illinois participated in the 2009 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following figures represent the information provided by the 62 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period.

2,830 Victims Served in One Day

910 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

1,920 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

This chart shows the percentage of programs that provided the following services on the Census Day.

Services Provided by Local Programs:		
Legal Representation by an Attorney	8%	
Transportation	48%	
Transitional Housing	44%	
Advocacy Related to Mental Health	26%	
Advocacy Related to Substance Abuse	11%	
Advocacy Related to Child Welfare/Protective Services	19%	
Advocacy Related to Immigration	18%	
Translation/Interpretation Services	18%	

1.236 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. In the 24-hour survey period, domestic violence programs answered approximately 52 hotline calls every hour.

930 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 930 individuals in communities across Illinois attended 76 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

711 Unmet Requests for Services

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services, such as emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, and legal representation. Of these unmet requests, 168 (24%) were from victims seeking emergency shelter or transitional housing.

Programs were unable to provide services for many reasons, as reported below.

- 40% reported not enough staff.
- 27% reported no available beds or funding for hotels.
- 44% reported not enough funding for needed programs and services.
- 19% reported not enough specialized services.
- 15% of programs had limited funding for translators, bilingual staff, or accessible equipment.

"On the Census Day, we had a large family come to our shelter. As we were getting them settled, the police brought in another victim who had been abused. It was an incredibly busy day."

"Today was a good day: we got a financial donation, a translator was available to help survivors get protection orders from their abusers, and we were able to obtain a bus pass for a client to get to work."

