



# KDVA Update

The Kentucky Domestic Violence Association Quarterly Newsletter  
Spring 2003

## Judi Patton, State Legislators Building on Wellstones' Legacy

By Lee Alcott  
KDVA President

March has been recognized as National Women's History Month since 1987 when the U.S. Congress expanded an existing resolution designating one week in March to recognize the contributions of women to our nation's history. It is a time to reflect on the historic struggles, accomplishments and legacies of notable and ordinary women. It is also a time to recognize the struggles, accomplishments and legacies of contemporary women. However, most of us are too busy keeping the women and children of Kentucky safe to take time to reflect. We are busy attempting to balance budgets that have suffered federal cuts, and to prepare for the reality of limited funding in the future. But

we need to take time to recognize, to remember, and to share the knowledge of women who have made and who make a difference. It is important to also recognize individuals who support efforts to keep women and children safe.

A significant loss for our nation and community of shelters occurred in October, 2002. Two individuals who contributed enormous momentum to our national agenda on domestic violence died in a plane crash. Sheila Wellstone, and her husband, Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., left a legislative legacy that was cut short by their tragic deaths. In their own words (forward of the Sourcebook on Violence Against Women, 2001):

*Ten years ago we began a journey. With the guidance of researchers, educators, and advocates, we set out to learn everything we*



About 4,600 pairs of shoes symbolizing the number of domestic violence victims and their children who needed emergency shelter last year sat on the state capital steps, last October.

*could about the violence against women that affects so many. We traveled around the country to hear the stories of battered women and their children, to see firsthand the operation of shelters and crisis centers, and ultimately to gather the tools needed to create effective public policy. We were fueled by a collective passion not only to pass*

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## Music Together Playing at 10 Shelters

By Mary O'Doherty  
Newsletter Editor

Kentucky's shelters for battered women and their children are using music and movement to help moms connect with their kids.

Children love the activities and even reluctant moms get involved when they hear their children singing and laughing, said Vicki Hardy-Hill, a case manager who brought Music Together to Safe

Harbor in Ashland.

Hardy-Hill taught the songs to a three-year-old girl in the shelter's playroom in January. It didn't take long for the child's mom to wander over to find

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### Member Programs

- Barren River Area Safe Space
- Bethany House Abuse Shelter
- Big Sandy Family Abuse Center
- The Caring Place
- The Center for Women and Families
- D.O.V.E.S.
- Family Life Abuse Center
- SpringHaven
- LKLP Safe House
- Owensboro Area Shelter and Information Services
- Resurrection Home
- Safe Harbor
- Sanctuary
- Women Aware
- Women's Crisis Center, N. Ky
- Women's Crisis Center, Maysville
- YWCA Spouse Abuse Center

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# Message to Legislators: Reform Archaic Tax Code

By Sherry Currens  
Executive Director

As the 2003 Kentucky General Assembly session drew to a close, the domestic violence centers heaved a collective sigh of relief that there were no additional cuts in state funding for services to victim/survivors of domestic violence. However, what does our legislative “victory” really mean? Flat state funding, a loss in revenue from marriage license fees, and pending federal cuts coupled with lower than normal charitable contributions since 9/11 and rising costs, have left services for victims in jeopardy.

Without additional funds, shelters will operate for one more year on a shoestring. We won't have the money to reach women and children in isolated rural areas. We'll continue to have limited funds to work with children traumatized by witnessing violence, to provide support groups and accompany survivors to court. We'll be less able to help survivors find housing, child care, and transportation, and we'll have to place more reliance on already overstretched community dollars. Most importantly, we still won't be able to shelter all the women and children who seek our help. Last year we had to turn away more than

2,600 victims.

Yet, after sitting through hours of hearings held by one of the legislature's staunchest human services champions, Rep. Jimmie Lee, it feels awkward to complain. How do you choose between battered women, abused children, struggling teenage mothers, and those with disabilities? The budget process seems to have pitted safety issues against basic human dignity. And unless the state wins a really big lottery, the struggle starts all over again in 10 months when the legislature begins work on the budget for the next biennium.

It seems to me that when we're being asked to choose between safety for battered women, child care for working moms and supportive services for an 86-year old mother trying desperately to keep from institutionalizing her 65-year old disabled daughter, that its time to stop talking about “cutting fat” and begin strategizing about how to raise revenue. I think the message to our legislators over the next 10 months should be that we support an overhaul of our state's outdated tax code. Tax reform is the first step our elected leaders must take if Kentucky is ever to raise the funds it needs to provide necessary services. It's time to do the right thing.



Becky Hagan, of OASIS in Owensboro, stepped down as KDVA president in January. She was president for 6 years.

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out what was making her daughter giggle and shriek with pleasure.

“I think mom saw her little girl really happy and really enjoying herself, and I don't think there was a lot of that happy time at home,” said Hardy-Hill.

MusicTogether helps mothers unwind with their kids, Hardy-Hill said. “A lot of mothers seem preoccupied when they get here. This brings the family together and for a little while it is just their time together. It definitely fits a need.”

Hardy-Hill works with children and their moms in groups and individually. The program, for children ages one through 5, is designed to stimulate a child's intellectual, physical, social and emotional

growth. It also takes advantage of a child's natural instincts to play and explore, said KDVA consultant Chris Kubale.

Ideally, MusicTogether helps moms establish positive ways for them to spend time with their children for the rest of their childhood. “This gives moms a way to interact with their children that enhances the kids' overall development,” said Kubale, who proposed the program.

Ten shelters are offering Music Together programs: Ashland, Beattyville, Lebanon, Elizabethtown, Hopkinsville, Owensboro, Northern Kentucky, Buffalo Trace and Louisville. Three other programs are offering a variation of MusicTogether called Music, Mommie and Me: Somerset, Bowling Green and Hazard.

# New Faces at KDVA



**Isela Arras**

Isela has been KDVA's bilingual advocate since October. She grew up in a town called Van Horn near El Paso, Tx and moved to Kentucky in May 1997. She is a liaison and resource to programs serving immigrants and refugees and their children. Isela, 26, also works with the Kentucky Battered Immigrant and Refugee Women's Task Force to provide training on immigrant and refugee issues around the state. She ran a translation and interpretation service serving mostly public agencies in central Kentucky before joining KDVA. Isela, a devoted pool shooter, lives in Lexington.



**Mary O'Doherty**

Mary has been administrator of Project: Barrier Free since November. She was hired to help programs tackle barriers that keep victims from becoming self-sufficient, find public and private funds and troubleshoot problems raised by government programs. She is a former newspaper reporter and editor for the Courier-Journal, Lexington Herald-Leader and Detroit News. Mary, 40, spent a year writing about domestic violence for the Courier-Journal in 1991, stories that helped build support for the significant domestic violence legislative reforms that became state law in 1992. Mary has a 14-year-old son, Joe. She lives in Louisville, where she loves to cook and read.



**Linda Robinson**

Linda has been staff attorney since December. A native Kentuckian, she works with Lisa Beran, KDVA's legal counsel, providing advice and legal services to residents of domestic violence shelters or victims of domestic violence in general on a limited basis in the areas of domestic violence, custody, divorce and other areas. Linda had a private practice in family law for many years in Pennsylvania and Tennessee. She worked as a VAWA domestic violence attorney with Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky Inc. in Barbourville before joining KDVA. She lives in Frankfort and enjoys taking long walks with her dog Lucky, a Border collie-husky.



**Tyson Schmick**

Tyson has been information systems coordinator since September. He provides basic computer and technology support and training, assists with the stats program, and maintain the KDVA website. Tyson, a 23-year-old native of Washington state, graduated from Washington State University last May with a business degree in management information systems. He developed an interest in non-profit work in during an internship at the Benton Franklin Volunteer Center in the summer of 2003. Tyson, an avid sports fan, lives in Lexington.

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**PATTON from page 1** *legislation that would affect the lives of women living with violence but also to concurrently create a heightened awareness of this epidemic.*

Their passion to protect women and children was fueled by an educational journey to battered women's shelters and crisis centers, where they listened, observed, and assessed the

diverse needs of battered women and their children. The Wellstones were willing to come face to face with the severity of domestic violence; they were willing to speak out about its devastation; they were willing to challenge the U.S. Congress to respond effectively.

The Wellstones were national figures, with direct links to communities far

from Kentucky, although Sheila's parents grew up in eastern Kentucky. What about the legacy of our legislators, those who have visited shelters, who have been willing to assess the barriers faced by victims of domestic violence, and who have been willing to challenge the General Assembly to eradicate those barriers? A long list of legislators has embraced the work of

Kentucky's 17 domestic violence shelters. Several have sponsored critical legislation that ranks among the toughest in the nation for domestic violence. Many have supported legislation that enacts stricter laws for perpetrators. The legacy of Sen. Richie Sanders includes his local involvement in the housing needs of  
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# For Your Reading File...

## Book Review:

*Surviving Domestic Violence: Voices of Women Who Broke Free* (2000)

Elaine Weiss, Ed.D.  
University of Utah, School of Preventative Medicine  
224 pages.

By Keely Bradley  
KDVA Resource Coordinator

This recent addition to the clearinghouse tells the story of 12 women and their escapes from abusers. The book demonstrates that domestic violence is omnipresent, affecting our family members, friends, and co-workers. The women highlighted in the book come from diverse backgrounds. They are wealthy, poor, big-city dwellers and small-town residents, high school dropouts and advanced-degree holders. Despite their differences, they share the distinction of successfully escaping abusive relationships.

This book emphasizes the important issues surrounding the time period immediately after a woman decides to leave her abuser and describes the different tactics each woman used to make her escape. In an affirming departure from many other domestic violence tales, Weiss describes the accomplishments of woman since they left their abusers.

Every woman who has left an abuser, has yet to leave, or wants to help a victim will find encouragement and support in these pages.

## New Books:

Bancroft, Lundy. (2002). *Why Does He Do That: Inside the Minds of Angry and Controlling Men*. New York, NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons.

Berry, Dawn Bradley. (2000). *The Domestic Violence Sourcebook. Third Edition*. Lincolnwood, IL: Lowell House.

Cohen, Monique. (2000). *Counseling Addicted Women*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Copeland, Mary Ellen and Maxine Harris. (2000). *Healing the Trauma of Abuse: a women's workbook*. Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publications.

Groves, Betsy McAlister. (2002). *Children Who See Too Much: Lessons from the Child Witness to Violence Project*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press.

LaViolette, Alyce D. and Ola W. Barnett. (2000). *It Could Happen To Anyone: Why Battered Women Stay. Second Edition*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Levenkron, Steven. (1998). *Cutting: Understanding and Overcoming Self-Mutilation*. New York, New York: Norton and Company.

O'Leary, K. Daniel and Roland D. Maiuro, ed. (2001). *Psychological Abuse in Violent Domestic Relations*. New York, NY: Springer Publishing.

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victims of domestic violence. The legacy of Rep. Joni Jenkins is remembered by thousands of children who attended her trainings at the Louisville shelter. Several women remember Rep. Rob Wilkey for the time he took to listen to their stories at a candlelight vigil sponsored by the shelter in Bowling Green. They remember Rep. Mike Denham's assistance in setting up a display of hundreds of pairs of shoes representing victims and

children served in Buffalo Trace. They remember Sen. Brett Guthrie's response when a victim arrived at his office to ask for help. Sen. Guthrie had the number to the shelter in Bowling Green, and made a direct referral for services. Rep. Hubert Collins' visit to the shelter in Prestonsburg was greatly appreciated. These women remember the enthusiasm of Rep. Jimmie Lee as he toured the shelter in Elizabethtown and met with residents and staff. They remember the visit of Rep. Jim Callahan in

Northern Kentucky, and his pledge to be there to advocate for the needs of that domestic violence program. They remember the powerful words of Rep. Kathy Stein on the capitol steps last October, as she stood among 4600 pairs of shoes representing victims served in shelters. The words of hope spoken by Rep. Rocky Adkins will long be remembered by the women and children from the shelter in Ashland who attended a candlelight vigil. Rep. Mary Lou Marzian's legacy includes significant work

educating the nursing community on domestic violence. Rep. Steve Nunn will be remembered for personal responses to letters and e-mails, assuring victims that Frankfort has not forgotten them.

Almost 30 years ago, when Kentucky's first shelters began to open their doors, organizers probably had no idea that these shelters would still be needed in 2003. Most programs are expanding in both services and capacity, even in the midst of a

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# A Tribute To Paul and Sheila Wellstone



1944 - 2002

Paul and Sheila Wellstone were champions for families whose lives were touched by violence. They were pioneers in violence prevention legislation, introducing bills that addressed the many facets of domestic violence: physical and mental health, economic security, job protection, personal safety, and the long-term consequences for child witnesses of abuse. The Wellstones, both 58, were high school sweethearts

who married at age 19. Sheila Wellstone, who was at her husband's side during much of his senate career, was often credited for his devotion to the issue of domestic violence. Paul Wellstone was elected to the Senate in 1991. In addition to their work on behalf of domestic violence victims, the couple fought for bills favored by unions, advocates of family farmers and the poor, and against big business.

## A Legislative Legacy

*Highlights of the legislation the Wellstones helped draft and introduce to Congress*

**1993** The Violence Reduction Training Act, signed into law by President Clinton in December 1993, trained health professionals to recognize instances of domestic abuse.

**1994** Wellstone cosponsored the original Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) which included, among other provisions, the Domestic Violence Firearms Prevention Act which banned the sale of firearms

to anyone under a restraining order.

**1997** Wellstone introduced an amendment to the Labor- HHS appropriations bill (also know as the Family Violence Option) that exempted victims of domestic violence from the work requirement outlined in the 1996 welfare bill.

**2000** Wellstone pushed successfully for enactment of an expanded VAWA measure to provide additional funding for initiatives to prevent domestic violence.

**2002** Wellstone introduced legislation to make permanent the Violence

Against Women Office at the Department of Justice. The Office would be responsible for administering the VAWA grant programs. The bill passed

in both the House and the Senate last year and is expected to be signed into law within the year.

Timeline and photo used with permission from the Tubman Family Alliance

## Mink Helped Author Title IX

Rep. Patsy Mink of Hawaii, was such a tireless proponent of women's rights and other liberal causes, conservatives dubbed her Patsy Pink. Her death in September reminded the world of what she called her most significant accomplishment: Title IX. Mink, 74, helped author the 1972 law which mandated gender equality in any education program or activity receiving federal money. Scholarship money for women increased from \$100,000 in 1972 to \$179 million in 1997 but was equally important in opening academics. Mink was a member of Congress from 1965 until 1977. She was elected again in 1990.

**PATTON from page 4** federal and state budget crisis. Shelters remain the only living memorial to battered women and their children. There was a very brief moment during this year's General Assembly when the question was asked, "Will shelters need to close their doors?" Every shelter director who heard these words felt emptiness, and wondered, "How will women and children be

safe?" During 2002, Kentucky's 17 domestic violence programs served more than 26,000 victims of domestic violence and their children. We thank every legislator who has responded to our concerns, our questions, and our pleading. We thank every legislator who has become educated on domestic violence through a visit to a shelter, a meeting with victims and children, a

letter, e-mail, or phone call. Every legislator who knows the name of the executive director of their regional shelter is to be commended. We are partners for peace in Kentucky homes.

And perhaps, the most important partner for peace in Kentucky homes during the last seven years has been First Lady Judi Conway Patton. Mrs. Patton demonstrates her commitment to ending the

devastation of family violence each day and continues to address the critical need to keep women and children safe. We thank you, Mrs. Patton, and assure you that your legacy will long be remembered in the shelters across Kentucky.

*Lee Alcott is the executive director of Barren River Area Safe Space.*

# Member Programs and Their Executive Directors

**Safe Harbor**  
in Ashland  
Ann Perkins  
(606) 329-9304

**Resurrection Home**  
in Beattyville  
Sister Mary Kay Drouin  
(606) 464-8481

**Barren River Area Safe Space**  
in Bowling Green  
Lee Alcott  
(270) 781-9334

**SpringHaven**  
in Elizabethtown  
Lisa Holmes  
(270) 765-4057

**Family Life Abuse Center**  
in Mount Vernon  
Peggy Hancock  
(606) 256-9511

**LKLP Safe House**  
in Hazard  
Lois Valentine  
(606) 439-3961

**Sanctuary**  
in Hopkinsville  
Helen Kinton  
(270) 885-4572

**The Caring Place**  
in Lebanon  
Lin Patterson  
(270) 692-9300

**D.O.V.E.S.**  
in Morehead  
Donna Overbee  
(606) 784-6880

**The Center for Women and Families**  
in Louisville  
Darlene Thomas  
(502) 581-7200

**Women's Crisis Center, Northern Kentucky**  
in Covington  
Mary Jo Davis  
(859) 491-3335

**Owensboro Area Shelter and Information Services**  
in Owensboro  
Becky Hagan  
(270) 685-0260

**Bethany House Abuse Shelter**  
in Somerset  
Charlotte Tribble  
(606) 679-1553

**Big Sandy Family Abuse Center**  
in Prestonsburg  
Judy Webb  
(606) 285-9079

**Women's Crisis Center, Buffalo Trace**  
in Maysville  
Phyllis Konerman  
(606) 564-6708

**Women Aware**  
in Paducah  
Kathey Jones  
(270) 443-6001

**YWCA Spouse Abuse Center**  
in Lexington  
Melissa Kemp  
(859) 233-9927

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