

## **A SAFE PLACE**

From July 2006 – June 2007, we provided services for 7 victims and gave 471 service units of services.

Responding to calls from the court, the police department, the department of Health and Human Services, other Human Service agencies and from victims themselves, the Portsmouth, Rochester, Salem and Shelter sites of A Safe Place provide 24 hour Emergency Shelter and advocacy as well as a wide range of service to victims of domestic abuse in 48 cities and towns in both Rockingham and Strafford counties. We assist our service users (clients) in Court and or at Police stations to obtain both Temporary and Permanent Restraining Orders. We also provide 1 to 1 in person and 24 hour telephone crisis counseling as well as on-going support groups. All the services provided at all sites of A Safe Place are free and confidential.

As advocates we work with our service users to prepare a safety plan and refer them if needed, to our undisclosed 24 hour emergency shelter. All sites also provide assistance with access to legal and social services and transportation and/or accompaniment to legal social service appointments and emergency rooms if needed. Each site has the ability to give direct financial assistance to victims in the form of modest gift certificates from grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, department stores, pre-paid phone cards and locksmith costs. We also provide clothing and toiletries as well as household items when we can.

Our advocates are well trained in the field of domestic abuse and understand both the emotional and physical toll it takes on the victim, their families and the community as well. It is critical that we maintain the ability to respond via direct services to the residents of Newton that seek both our emergency and long-term services. Our presence in Newton has been critical over the years in serving populations that face abuse no matter what their age, economic status or gender.

As teen dating violence is on the rise nationally we wish to continue our outreach efforts this year and continue to work with the Newton schools to educate both faculty and students about the signs of and services available to teens who find themselves in abusive dating and relationship situations. The cost of domestic violence to the workplace is very costly both financially and emotionally, thus we would like to further our outreach to local businesses and educate managers and employees about the signs of domestic violence and how it affects the workplace, on both employees and their families. Domestic Violence affects the whole community and is a national public health issue. We at A Safe Place are here to serve and work with the community of Newton in the effort of breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

We are asking for funding to continue our free direct services, counseling, emergency shelter services, as well as expand our community educational outreach and help with defraying the rising costs associated with the increased need to provide service users with critical transportation and basic emergency needs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marsie Silvestro  
Executive Director