

## A SAFE PLACE

A Safe Place has been providing Free and Confidential Domestic Violence Support Services for 30 years. The Portsmouth, Rochester, Salem and Shelter sites of *A Safe Place* provide 365 days a year, 24-hour Emergency Shelter and Hotline Services, as well as a range of support services to victims of domestic abuse in the 48 cities and towns of Rockingham and Strafford Counties. We do not receive any 3<sup>rd</sup> party payments for our services.

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. We also assist our service users in obtaining both Temporary and Permanent Restraining Orders and accompany them to courts and police stations to do so. We provide 1 on 1, in-person and 24 hour telephone crisis counseling as well as on-going support groups. All sites assist our service users with access to legal and social services and transportation and / or accompaniment to related 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 to change their locks for safety. We also provide clothing and toiletries; household items and other needed items.

Our advocates understand both the emotional and physical toll it takes on the victim, their families, as well as the community. 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.

**From July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011, A Safe Place served 6 people from Newton, giving 280 units of service (each unit of service represents 15 minutes of time). We also provided educational presentations to students in both middle and high school in order to help youth learn to develop healthy teen relationships.**

We wish to continue to offer refuge, support and other services to the residents of Newton, especially during these hard economic times when there is a rise in Domestic Violence. We hope you will continue to join us in breaking the cycle of violence. (Telephone: 800-854-3552)

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Coombs  
Finance Manager