

Message from our Executive Director

All the Girls Die

A recent article in *The New York Times Magazine* began like this, "In the 19th century, the paramount moral challenge was slavery. In the 20th century, it was totalitarianism. In this century, it is the brutality inflicted on so many women and girls around the globe: sex trafficking, acid attacks, bride burnings and mass rape."

Violence against women is, indeed a global epidemic. But don't be fooled into believing that it is a problem caused by different cultural views on the roles of women or fundamentalist religions, or the sad fact that so much global violence against women happens in places where wars rage out of control.

In Pennsylvania, in a journal that he kept while he prepared for his attack on the women's gym where he wounded nine women and killed three others, George Sodini wrote, "I actually look good. I dress good, am clean-shaven, bathe, touch of cologne — yet 30 million women rejected me." He was very explicit about his hatred of women and why he felt compelled to kill them. "Why do this?" he asked. "To young girls? Just read below." In his sadistic yet vaguely shame-filled ranting he also wrote, "It seems many teenage girls have sex frequently. One 16 year old does it usually three times a day with her boyfriend. So, err, after a month of that, this little [expletive] has had more sex than ME in my LIFE, and I am 48. One more reason."

The public seems shocked when things like this happen. Why? Why wouldn't we expect this very thing to happen consistently when, every day, in little neighborhoods all over Bay and Arenac Counties, families watch television news reports, "reality" shows and movies in which the rape, murder and humiliation of females is not only a staple of the programming, but considered appropriate family entertainment.

I am reminded of a story I heard from a middle school prevention class. At a discussion of horror films, one of the young women commented that she didn't like horror films because, "all of the girls die." In my lifetime, I never want to hear of another little girl saying something like that.

Our culture is full of the most repugnant forms of misogyny, and pornography is now a multibillion-dollar industry. Much of it is controlled by corporations located in the United States and available 24 hours a day on our televisions, computers and inside our neighborhood stores.

We know that the answer to ending domestic and sexual violence against women and children lies inside all of us, both male and female. We know that pornography is an evil born out of the misery and sexual slavery that thousands of women endure every day, but cannot escape. Lastly, we know that misogyny is learned behavior that begets violence. But it can be un-learned if we work as a community of men and women, equal partners in life with respect for our significant differences and wonderful similarities.

Our deepest thanks go out to all of YOU for your belief in the work that Bay Area Women's Center does for Bay and Arenac County families. We also thank you for your support — both spiritual and financial. I close this letter to you with a quote from philosopher and peace activist Gerard Vanderhaar:

"We challenge the culture of violence when we ourselves act in the certainty that violence is no longer acceptable, that it's tired and outdated no matter how many cling to it in the stubborn belief that it still works and that it's still valid."



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Our Most Recent Donors

Bay Area Women's Center would like to thank the donors listed here. We would also like to thank all the anonymous donors who have chosen to not give their names but have given generously throughout the years. Your gracious contributions are greatly appreciated.

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Fr. Michael Wolf

2009 Event Donors

Walk-a-Mile in Her Shoes - SVSU
Movers for Mom's - Two Men and a Truck

Community Day - Bon-Ton Stores
Denim Day -

BASIS
City of Bay City
Copoco Credit Union
Delta College
Financial Edge
Graff Chevrolet
Bayside Health
Saginaw Chippewa Tribe
Sunrise Family CU
United Bay Community CU

Operation FreeFall - Skydivers

Mary Albritton
Kevin Bisil
Amanda Diebold
Kelly Koziatek
Shasha Robinson
Tracy Vuorinen

50/50 Raffle Bowling Event

Gina Lamia
Jessica Gregory

In Honor of Brown-Fackler Wedding

Jamie Huffman

In Honor of Rose and Erv Ballien

James and Marie Lamia

In Honor of Sue Cook's Birthday

James and Shelley Patterson
Randall Frank
Dr. Marguerite Kuhn

Churches

Auburn United Methodist Church
Catholic Diocese of Saginaw
Christ United Methodist Church
Christ United Methodist Women
Church of Saint Norbert
First Presbyterian Church
Grace Episcopal Church Women
Grace Lutheran Memorial Fund
Grand Rapids Dominicans
Kawkawlin Community Church
St. Luke's United Methodist Church
St. Mary of the Assumption
St. Paul Lutheran Women's Guild
St. Vincent DePaul
Sacred Heart Alter Society
Unity of Bay City
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Organizations/Businesses

AAA Auto Club Ins. Assoc.
Bay City Education Association
Bay Regional Medical Center
Central High School Choir
Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund
Dr. Cook's Office Staff
The Cutting Castle
Daughters of Isabella
Delta College
Frankenmuth High School
GM Powertrain
Interstate Battery System
Ladies' Auxiliary Aerie No. 1010
The Link Tri-City Chapter
Medical Rehabilitation Solutions
MCI Insurance
Morning Rotary of Bay City

OES Bay Chapter #219
Seward, Tally and Piggott, PC
Psi Iota Xi Sorority
Stacy and Rita Smith Advised Fund
SVSU Psychology Club
Thelen Family Foundation
West Bay Dental
Yeager Asphalt

Many Thanks!

This list contains names of donors from September 2008 through July 2009. If your name should be on this list but is missing, please notify us so we can correct any mistake.

Memorial Gifts to BAWC

[In Memory of Pearl Sherman](#)

William and Susan Buckley
Richard and Helen Gibbs
Shirley Kavanagh
Thomas and Elizabeth LeFevre
Karl and Carrie Majeske
Earl and Elise Mast
William Musolf
Robert and Jane North
Anna M. Sherman
Eva and David Sherman
Daniel and Sandra Webb

[In Memory of Jean Wan](#)

Jane and Robert Rogers

[In Memory of Marianne Klemish](#)

M Jo Urbaniak

[In Memory of Princeton A. Jenkins](#)

Karen and Dana Monville

[Bequest of Shirley Ann Brady](#)

Is Planned Giving for You?

Did you know that you can make a gift to Bay Area Women's Center that cost nothing during your lifetime?

A bequest in your will

When you revise your will the next time, you might consider including a provision for Bay Area Women's Center. Your gift could be of a specific dollar amount; a percentage of your estate; a portion of your residuary estate; or a gift that is contingent upon one of your heirs predeceasing you.

Beneficiary designation

It is possible to name BAWC as one of the beneficiaries of either a life insurance policy or a retirement plan such as an individual retirement account. Like the bequest provision, this is a revocable arrangement that can be changed by you at any time.

Savings and brokerage accounts

You might want to consider renaming one of your bank or stock accounts in such a way that whatever remains in the account at your death passes automatically to BAWC to create a fund or endowment. This, too, is a revocable arrangement that can be changed by you if circumstances change.

Gift plans that pay you income for Life

Did you know that you can establish a charitable gift annuity with BAWC? These relatively simple gift plans provide the donor, or someone named by the donor, with a fixed income for life. For a period of years part of that income is tax-free. The donor also enjoys an income tax charitable deduction in the year the gift annuity is funded.

Check with your financial planner for more creative ideas for your planned giving.

Your life, your legacy.

No-Show Fundraising Dinner

Faced with the need to raise funds for Bay Area Women's Center's critical work, the Fund Development Committee came up with an idea - a No-Show Dinner. Supporters were invited to not show up for another Fundraising Dinner. Instead the money they would have spent on dinner, drinks, babysitter, dress and shoes, they were able to donate to Bay Area Women's Center. This creative idea has caught on around the country. The Dinner has "not been given" in numerous cities nationwide, and in 2009 came to the Bay Area Community. We would like to thank the No-Show Fundraising Dinner committee members:

Barb Sundstrom
Carol Lucas
Debbie Keim
Jane Rogers
Regina Turner
Sister Maria Beckman

A Partnership that Works!

Bay Area Women's Center has partnered with the United Way of Bay County for many, many years. At the end of this year, United Way will have invested more than \$80,000 in BAWC's Domestic Violence Counseling Program. Whether it's Youth, Health and Wellness, or Basic Needs and Independence, United Way of Bay County is helping to make a difference in the lives of the people of our community. Thank you for supporting Bay County United Way and Bay Area Women's Center. For more information on our partnership, or on the needs of the community, please visit www.unitedwaybaycounty.org

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

This year's Theme is "[Know Excuses](#)"

- The month of activities will kick off with "Operation Law Enforcement" October 1st at noon.
- Our annual Awareness Walk and candle-light Vigil will take place on October 7th at 5:30.
- "Hands Are Not For Hitting" workshops are scheduled for October 16th at Deer Acres in Pinconning and October 17th at The Pumpkin Farm in Standish.
- Our Clothesline will be displayed at Bay Regional Medical Center on October 20th and at St. Mary's Hospital in Standish on October 27th.

To get involved with these or other awareness activities call BAWC (989) 686-4551.

"Keep the Dream Alive"

Raffle Results

The drawing was held on June 5, 2009 at Bay Area Women's Center. The winning ticket (#504) was purchased by an anonymous donor in the name of Bay Area Women's Center.

Thank you to all who bought and or sold raffle tickets this year. This is a hard year in so many ways for so many people. Thank you for being willing to open your pockets as well as asking your friends and family to open theirs too.

Check us out on the
World Wide Web
www.bawc-mi.org

*Bay Area
Women's
Center
working
to end
domestic
violence and
sexual assault
in our
community
since 1975.*



Prevention Education

Contact

Jessica Gregory
686-4551, ext. 17

to request information or schedule an age-appropriate presentation on any of the following topics:

Happy Bear - good touch/bad touch, (pre-K-2nd grade)

Hands are Not for Hitting T-Shirt program

Sexual Harassment (6th-9th grade)

Sexual Assault (9th-12th grade)

Family Violence

Healthy Relationships

Domestic Violence

Sexual Assault

BAWC Services

Vice President Biden Announces Appointment of White House Advisor on Violence Against Women

* The following article was taken from a press release dated June 26, 2009 from the office of the Vice President.

Vice President Biden, the author of the landmark Violence Against Women Act, announced the appointment of Lynn Rosenthal as the new White House Advisor on Violence Against Women. Ms. Rosenthal is one of the nation's foremost experts in domestic violence policy, and has worked at the local, state and national levels to create an environment where violence against women is not ignored and perpetrators are held accountable. This is a newly created position at the White House, dedicated specifically to advising the President and Vice President on domestic violence and sexual assault issues.

"My proudest legislative achievement in the Senate was passing the Violence Against Women Act. We've made great strides since its passage – shining a light on an all too silent issue and reducing violence against women in significant numbers. But we have to do more," said Vice President Biden. "That's why we're here today – to do more. It's an honor to announce the first ever White House Advisor on Violence Against Women, Lynn Rosenthal. Lynn is passionate about these issues and knows them backwards and forwards. And as a former director of a shelter, she's also seen the human face of this tragic problem. She will be a leader in this White House in stopping the violence and sexual assault of women and will be an integral part of this Administration."

Ms. Rosenthal's areas of domestic violence expertise include housing, state and local coordinated community response, federal policy on violence against women, and survivor-centered advocacy. She most recently served as the Executive Director of the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

From 2000-2006, Rosenthal served as the Executive Director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) where she represented 54 state and territorial coalitions whose collective membership included more than 2000 local domestic violence programs. She played a major advocacy role in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act in 2000 and 2005 and has assisted states and local communities with implementation of this groundbreaking federal legislation. She also worked closely with corporate partners to bring millions of dollars to local communities to respond to domestic violence. She partnered with The Allstate Foundation to develop a highly successful national initiative to promote economic empowerment for survivors of violence. Prior to her service at NNEDV, Rosenthal was director of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence where she developed innovative service models for rural and legal services. On her return to Florida in 2006, Rosenthal developed the state's first comprehensive plan to help survivors of violence find housing.

Lynn Rosenthal is a pioneer in the movement against domestic abuse and sexual assault. Her expertise will help to shape federal policies that will serve countless survivors of domestic and sexual violence.



Sweetheart Award Winner
Karen Steve
Volunteer since 12-2000



Intern, Rochelle Hawblitzel with Staff members, Elizabeth Bush and Dan Kryzminski

Celebrating People in Action

Bay Area Women's Center celebrated Volunteer Appreciation week August 17th through August 21st.

One hundred thirty-one volunteers have accounted for over 5500 hours to date in 2009.

Our volunteers have touched the lives of more than 460 adults and 184 children who have all looked to the Bay Area Women's Center for help. In addition to these volunteer hours, we would like to express our appreciation to everyone in the community for their wonderful donations. It is through the generous giving of yourself that we are able to keep our doors open and continue to provide services to those who are experiencing domestic and sexual violence.

For more information on becoming a volunteer, please contact Shelley Ramos at (989) 686-4551 or sramos@bawc-mi.org

BAWC Shares Recipe Secrets

It is a tradition at BAWC to put on a Pot Luck every chance we get. Here is one of our favorite recipes brought by Elizabeth (Augustine) Bush, Transitional Housing Program Case Manager.

Seasoned Pretzels!

One bottle (about $\frac{3}{4}$) of Orville Redenbacher's Buttery Flavor Popcorn Oil

One package (dry) Hidden Valley Ranch dressing mix

1 TBSP. dill weed

2 packages of fat-free mini-pretzel twists (1 pound each)

Mix first three ingredients together. Then dump in pretzels. Use a long-handled spoon and stir every ten-fifteen minutes until all oil is absorbed. Will take a couple of hours, at least. Great for snacking, football parties, pot-lucks, or road trips.

Note: This recipe originally called for the entire bottle of oil, but Elizabeth likes it a little less greasy. We all agree. This is one of our favorites.

Understanding Teen Dating Violence

Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Dating violence often starts with teasing and name calling. These behaviors are often thought to be a "normal" part of a relationship. But these behaviors can lead to more serious violence like physical assault and rape.

Dating violence is a serious problem in the United States. Many teens do not report it because they fear the reactions of friends and family.

- 72% of 8th and 9th graders reportedly "date."
- 1 in 4 adolescents reports verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse from a dating partner each year.
- About 10% of students nationwide report being physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the past 12 months.

How does dating violence affect health?

Dating violence has a negative effect of health throughout life. Teens who are victims are more likely to do poorly in school. They may engage in unhealthy behaviors, like drug and alcohol use. The anger and stress that victims feel may lead to eating disorders and depression. Some teens even think about or attempt suicide. Victims may also carry the patterns of violence into future relationships. Physically abused teens are three times more likely than their non-abused peers to experience violence during college.

On-Going Fundraisers

"Cuisine de France" Bread Sale

To satisfy your sweet tooth, gourmet ready-to-bake cookies will be added to the "Cuisine de France" Bread Sale. An order form is inserted in this newsletter.

Fifty percent of your total purchase qualifies as a charitable deduction as allowed by the IRS.

All profits will be used to establish emergency reserve funds and to support non-grant funded projects.

Bon Appétit!

Donate Your Unwanted Cell Phones

Donating a used, unwanted cell phone allows community members to give to an important cause without reaching into their wallets.

Proceeds from our collection efforts support BAWC programs and services.

For more information about either of these fundraisers call Debbie Keim (989)686-2251.

How can we prevent dating violence?

The ultimate goal is to stop dating violence before it starts. Strategies that promote healthy relationships are vital. During the preteen and teen years, young people are learning skills they need to form positive relationships with others. This is an ideal time to promote healthy relationships and prevent patterns of dating violence that can last into adulthood.

Prevention programs change the attitudes and behaviors linked with dating violence. One example is BAWC's Prevention Education Program, a school-based program that is designed to change social norms and improve problem solving skills.

Our own, Jessica Gregory joined many health classes in Arenac and Bay Counties last school year to educate students on protection against harassment, recognizing unhealthy relationships, domestic and sexual violence dynamics, and gender biases. Jessica's curriculum includes presentations, open discussion, videos and tests to evaluate what the students have learned. The course is taught through the Health Education Program in the schools and is counted as part of the students' total grade for participation. We will continue and hopefully expand this program to more students in the 2009-2010 school year.

For more information please contact Jessica Gregory at 989.686.4551 ext. 19.

Safe Kids

Mini Day Camp

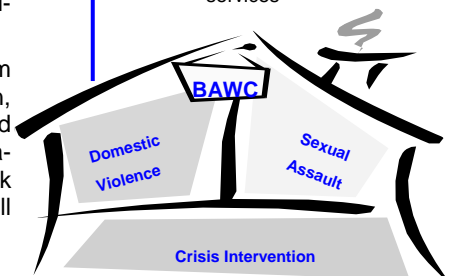
A new summer day camp program was initiated to introduce safety planning for BAWC children. The safety camp ran one day a week for eight weeks. Children were able to make new friends and learn valuable safety procedures.

Topics covered included personal boundaries, safety planning, internet safety, healthy relationships, dealing with feelings, bullying and more. Thirty-five children enjoyed discovering ways to stay safe and was awarded certificates for their participation.

This new exciting summer program was the initiative of Laura Harrington, Children's Program Case Manager and Jessica Gregory, Community Education/Prevention Coordinator. We thank these two staff members for a job well done.

On-going Needs

- Diapers size 4&5
- Baby Wipes
- Baby monitors
- Personal care needs
- Feminine napkins
- Tampons
- Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V)
- Cleaning supplies
- Paper products
- Florescent light bulbs (48" – F40's)
- Towels, washcloths, dish towels
- Bedding (single/twin size, extra long)
- New pillows
- First-aid supplies
- Over-the-counter medications (adults and children)
- Gas cards and bus tokens
- Phone cards
- Pocket calendars/planners or journals
- New underwear and socks (adults, children, teens)
- Bathing Suits, including plus size
- Fabric paint
- Copy paper
- Packing tape
- Ink pens and highlighters
- Dry erase markers
- Legal pads (8 ½ x 11)
- "Thank You" cards
- CDR-R disks
- Used computers, speakers, printers -winXT or newer
- Paper shredders
- Certificate frames
- Cell phones
- Donated professional services



Bay Area Women's Center

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Bay City, MI 48706

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Bay Area Women's Center

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Bay Area Women's Center

PO Box 1458

3411 E. Midland Road

Bay City, MI 48706

Crisis Phone (989) 686-4551

Administration (989) 686-2251

Toll Free (800) 834-2098

Fax (989) 686-0906

BAY AREA
WOMEN'S CENTER
MISSION...

To eliminate domestic
violence and sexual assault
in our community.

YES, count me in!

Fill out and return to BAWC

Please send information to me regarding:

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Becoming a Board Member
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Donating food and supplies
- Having someone speak to my group

I am making a donation in the amount of \$ _____

Check enclosed

Bill me

Name

Address

Bay Area Women's Center

PO Box 1458

Bay City, MI 48706

Phone/E-mail



Bay Area Women's Center offers free, confidential help to adults and families who have experienced domestic violence or sexual assault, and preventive education to the community. Client support services include a 24-hour crisis line, shelter, housing advocacy, legal advocacy, support groups, and children and teen services. For more information, call (989) 686-4551.