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**A Special Thank You**

By Christina Grier, *Coordinator, The Supervised Visitation Program @ WomenSafe*

The Supervised Visitation Program @ WomenSafe (The SVP) celebrated the Grand Opening of a new visitation room on Thursday, July 25, 2013. About 25 community members and supporters joined us for the joyous occasion. A special thank you to Jo LaMarche, Court Manager, for her ongoing support and endless patience with this project.

The SVP has provided parents and family members with a safe, neutral place to visit with children since 1998. For safety reasons, The SVP has always maintained a visitation space at the Frank Mahady Courthouse. The SVP is only able to do so because of excellent collaboration with local court staff, the Addison County Sheriff's Department, the Court Administrator's Office, and other community partners. Due to recent changes to the building layout and occupants, The SVP had been using temporary rooms at the courthouse until the new space could be developed. We are excited to be in our new space! For more information, please contact The SVP at 388-6783.

To learn more about supervised visitation and monitored exchange services, please call us or visit the following websites:

**[www.safevisitsvt.org](http://www.safevisitsvt.org) or [www.svnetwork.net](http://www.svnetwork.net).**

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**WomenSafe, Inc.**  
**PO Box 67**  
**Middlebury, VT 05753**

**24 Hour Hotline**  
 802.388.4205 or 800.388.4205

Business: 802.388.9180  
 Fax: 802.388.3438

**The Supervised Visitation  
 Program**  
 (The SVP) 802.388.6783

info@womensafe.net  
 www.womensafe.net

*Language interpretation  
 services available.*

*Deaf callers please use  
 telephone relay.*

# Changes to the Protection Order Statute

By Kara Francis, *Legal Advocate*

In May of this year, Governor Shumlin signed off on several amendments to Title 15 V.S.A. § 1105, an existing law that governs some of the legal elements addressing protection orders and second degree domestic assault charges in Vermont. Below highlights some of the changes which pertain to protection orders:

## 15 V.S.A. § 1105

“A defendant who attends a hearing held under section 1103 or 1104 of this title at which a temporary or final order under this chapter is issued and who receives notice from the court on the record that the order has been issued shall be deemed to have been served. A defendant notified by the court on the record shall be required to adhere immediately to the provisions of the order.”

“... A court that issues an order under this chapter during court hours shall promptly transmit the order electronically or by other means to a law enforcement agency for service.”

“... However, even when the court has previously notified the defendant of the order, the court shall transmit the order for additional service by a law enforcement agency.”

Up until now, the responsibility has been placed on the petitioners of protection orders for the delivery of court papers to the police who serve orders on defendants. At a time when one’s safety is already in jeopardy this requirement is simply an additional barrier. In a six month period 52 protection orders were requested in Addison County; 47 of those orders required petitioners to travel to police stations scattered around the county.

Some barriers people faced included limited transportation, an inflexible work schedule, physical mobility, language proficiency and/or a lack of financial resources. Domestic violence advocates are pleased to see that the new amendments eliminate that added step, allowing women experiencing domestic violence greater ease and safety navigating through the legal system to obtain an order of protection.

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 These amendments will go into effect November 1, 2013. For more information, please call us at 388-9180.  
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# Donate Your Old Cell Phone to WomenSafe



Please consider donating your old or broken cell phone or smartphone. We can use them in several ways:

- **Stalking kits:** We create stalking kits and make them available for people experiencing sexual violence, domestic violence or stalking. These kits contain a cell phone with emergency/911 capability, a whistle, flashlight, disposable camera, notebook and stalking log.
- **Replacing** broken cell phones: It is common for a phone to get broken during an incident or intentionally broken by a controlling partner. Even though the phone is broken, the sim

card or memory card can be placed in a donated cell phone so that the person experiencing violence has a “new” phone at no cost. A cell phone may seem like a luxury to many; however, for someone experiencing domestic or sexual violence it is a lifeline to support and safety.

- **Recycling** through “reuse” and “refining” programs that accept donated cell phones, smartphones, iPods and iPads and give money back to WomenSafe. During a 2 year period, WomenSafe received nearly \$240 for donated cell phones from Shelter Alliance.

## What is Shelter Alliance?

Shelter Alliance, the flagship program of GRC Wireless ([www.grcwireless.com](http://www.grcwireless.com)), is the largest grassroots cell phone recycling program in North

America. They have responsibly recycled millions of cell phones, smartphones, iPads, and iPods since 2001, and are the trusted recycling partner to thousands of organizations and businesses nationwide.

## How Much Does WomenSafe Receive Per Item?

WomenSafe sends the donated cell phones, smartphones, etc. to Shelter Alliance and we receive money based on the type of items:

- Cell phones earn between 50 cents and \$30 (depending on make and model).
- Smartphones earn up to \$150 per phone.
- iPods earn up to \$100 per item.
- iPads earn up to \$250 per item.

*(continued on page 5)*

# NH Tragedy During Supervised Visit

By Christina Grier, *Coordinator, The Supervised Visitation Program @ WomenSafe (The SVP)*

We were saddened to hear of the tragedy at a YMCA in Manchester, New Hampshire on Sunday, August 11, 2013. The details are incomplete, but it appears that a man killed his 8 year old son and then himself during a supervised visit. Our thoughts go out to the family members, the staff at the YMCA, and all those affected by this tragedy. It is a dreadful reminder of the risks of our work and to families every day.

One of the reports indicated that the man had threatened to kill his son and the boy's mother in the past. Some may wonder why this father had access to his son, given that he had made such fatal threats. While threats like this are often common from partners who abuse their power, when working within the constraints of state statutes, judges may be limited in their ability to restrict parent-child contact. In fact, a parent's right to see their child can sometimes trump allegations of harm or threats. Even if a defendant's behavior rises to the level of meeting the statute for granting a court order of protection, it doesn't mean that the defendant will be ordered to supervised access to children.

And even if defendants are ordered to supervised access, judges sometimes allow a family member or friend to provide the supervision. However, according to Vermont Best Practice Standards for supervised visitation providers and the multi-national Supervised Visitation Network, service providers should be neutral and have no conflict of interest with the people they are supervising. In addition, there are other reasons why friends/family are not often the best option, including but not limited to the following:

- When one parent is abusive to the other and/or children, s/he may also be abusive or coercive to the friend/family member serving as the visit

supervisor, compromising everyone's safety.

- If the visiting parent spends time interacting with the family member or friend who is supervising, attention and time are taken away from the child.
- Many well-meaning friends and relatives may initially agree to provide the service, but quickly tire of the regular commitment and/or being in the middle of the conflict.

There are 10 different supervised visitation centers/programs throughout the state of Vermont. While there may be challenges to ordering parent/ child access through the use of a program or center, when safety is an issue, I don't think there can be another option.

The Supervised Visitation Program @ WomenSafe (The SVP) is unique in that we do not charge fees for most of our services. The SVP also conducts all meetings and visits with participants in the Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury. Through collaboration with our local court and the Addison County Sheriff's Department, The SVP is able to offer enhanced security and a positive officer presence to children. Sheriffs are on duty for all visits and everyone must

pass through a metal detector to enter the courthouse. I believe that families are safer, we are safer, and the public is safer because of the concerted efforts in Addison County to provide safe, quality services for families in need of supervised visitation.

It is important to know that visitation centers cannot ENSURE safety, because even with the most enhanced safety measures, incidents can still happen. Programs do the best they can with very limited resources. Just as a protection order is a piece of paper and not a shield – if someone really wants to commit a violent crime, they will often find a way to do it. Visitation centers are one tool for increasing safety, but not infallible.

Despite our increased security, we will revisit our policies and practices to make sure we are doing all we can to reduce risk to all parties. If you'd like more information about supervised visitation, please go to the website of the Vermont Coalition of Supervised Visitation Programs at [www.safevisits-vt.org](http://www.safevisits-vt.org) or [www.svnetwork.org](http://www.svnetwork.org). If you'd like more information about domestic or dating violence, please go to [www.womensafe.net](http://www.womensafe.net) or [www.vtnetwork.org](http://www.vtnetwork.org). The SVP can be reached at 388-6783.

**1 in 3 adolescents will experience some form of teen dating violence**

**Break the Cycle**

\*taken from [breakthecycle.org](http://breakthecycle.org)

**Empowering Youth to End Domestic Violence**

To speak with a confidential advocate call  
**1-802-388-4205 or e-mail**  
**[info@womensafe.net](mailto:info@womensafe.net)**

**WomenSafe** LIVE UNITED United Why



# Accomplishments of Local Council

By Melissa Deas, *Coordinator of the Addison County Council Against Domestic and Sexual Violence*

In the past 3 years, the Addison County Council Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (Council) has worked hard to accomplish our goals of strengthening our community’s response to domestic/sexual violence (dv/sv). We have done this through providing monthly meetings for all service providers to communicate about how we are responding to dv/sv and to close gaps that might not be readily obvious.

At the end of 2009 during the budget cuts, Addison County lost their probation and parole office, which was very concerning for our county. The Council Coordinator and 4 college students surveyed the results of this loss by asking our service providers to tell us about how the loss had affected their work regarding the prevention of dv/sv. In the end, we had a 100 page report that raised alarms. The Council met with the Department of Corrections and legislators to find a way to remedy this situation. Today, in 2013, we now have an office in place with 3.5 probation and parole officers working steadily.

Through our steering committee and our hard working education committee, we have provided events for the community and trainings for the service providers to further our goals.

Lundy Bancroft presented training for service providers in 2011, which was rich with his intensive studies and

understandings of how children and families are affected by dv/sv.

The Council was honored to accept a summer intern from Middlebury College in the years of 2011 and 2013. Both students were of great value to the Council and left with a strong understanding of dv/sv along with stepping stones to help prevent it. Our first student, Luke Brown, continued this work within Middlebury College creating a great and effective event called, “It Happens Here.” Both interns spent time in our tri-town teen centers to find acceptable ways to offer prevention education. They hoped to find these ways through the students’ advice.

The Council joined with Middlebury College to bring Jackson Katz, a well known author and speaker about domestic violence to Middlebury. Jackson Katz gave an awareness presentation for our community and college students about responding to boys and men who batter. Jackson’s point was that men are responsible for dv/sv and responsible for changing the social belief that dv/sv is okay.

Jackson followed his presentation by providing a training for service providers the next day.

Throughout the summers, of 2010–2013, the ACCADSV coordinator and 2 different Middlebury College student interns tabled at farmer’s markets and different events in our

tri-towns. Our purpose was to be available and familiar to our community.

The education-committee offered 2 films and talks to the community including *Revising Ophelia* and *Telling Amy’s Story*. *Telling Amy’s Story* was also a training opportunity for service providers.

We are proud to report that our 2nd annual event, *Shine A Light on Domestic Violence*, was a huge success! The Coordinator provided working, second hand lamps to local artists who dressed and painted the lamps into interesting, beautiful pieces of art. The lamps were then sold during a silent auction at 51 Main At the Bridge in Middlebury on Saturday, September 28, 2013 from 7:00pm-10:00pm. An excellent local band, BandAnna, volunteered their music for the evening’s entertainment. Because of *Shine A Light*, many original and interesting lamps will go into our neighbors’ homes where family members and friends will ask the question, “Where did that lamp come from?” This question begs the conversation of prevention of domestic/sexual violence, which is our fervent hope. Thanks to everyone involved, this year’s *Shine A Light* event raised more than \$1300 for the Council!

For more information about the Council or its activities, please call 349-3059.

## WomenSafe is Awarded Federal Grant!

WomenSafe is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a 2013 Transitional Housing Grant (Office of Violence Against Women, Transitional Housing Grant #: 2013 WH-AX-0006). This will allow the inspiring work that has happened in our Transitional Housing Program to continue for another three years. This new award is in large part due to the tireless efforts of the housing advocates in the county, including Anne, WomenSafe’s Transitional Housing Program Coordinator. It is through their optimism, dedication and perseverance that we are able to continue to provide this service. To date we have assisted 47 women and families with 6-18 months of housing support each. This is a much needed resource that we are thrilled to still provide to survivors in the community.

# What's the Message of a Dress Code?

By Willow Wheelock, *Training & Education Coordinator*

No strapless dresses or shirts; no low-cut tops, no yoga pants, no skirts/shorts shorter than your fingertips...as more and more schools are implementing or enforcing clothing bans/restrictions for their students, it's important to look critically at these bans and talk about the unintended (harmful) messages that can result from them.

Many dress codes are heavily weighted to policing the attire of females over males and while many people are concerned about overexposed bodies and objectification of girls and (young) women, focusing on clothes alone fails to consider both the crux of the issue (hyper-sexualization of females and violent masculinity) and the importance of recognizing girls and young women as autonomous beings with agency over their bodies.

Today's kids are immersed in a society where females still navigate misogyny (limited access to power

and decision-making) and everyone experiences rape culture (victim-blaming, trivializing rape, rape jokes) and telling females to 'cover-up' their bodies through clothing enforcement reinforces both of these ills.

Controlling the clothing of females include messages like:

- Girls and young women's bodies are not their own
- By default, young women's bodies are sexual and need to be controlled or protected
- Young and adult men shouldn't be expected to control their behavior
- Girls and young women are responsible for the behavior of boys, men and young men.

Also, rather than steering girls' attention away from their bodies, dress codes force girls/young women to consider how they present their bodies every day. The toxic hyper-sexuality of women that dress codes are intended

to address instead becomes embodied in the female students who pick out clothes each morning. These messages can be disrespectful to both females and males and can lead to the perpetuation of sexual, dating and domestic violence in our communities.

There is a place for dress codes, but in the context of deciding what the dress codes will set for expectations and why they are being set, we have to facilitate conversations with our colleagues, community members and especially our youth that support everyone's critical thinking about oppression, gender roles and expectations, violence and prevention. If you would like more information on facilitation of focus groups, workshops or presentations from WomenSafe's Training and Education Program, call 388-9180, email [info@womensafe.net](mailto:info@womensafe.net) or visit [www.womensafe.net](http://www.womensafe.net).

## Donate Your Old Cell Phone to WomenSafe

*(continued from page 2)*



**Reusing:** How Shelter Alliance Reuses Donated Cell Phones  
Approximately 60% of recycled cell phones

have resale value as refurbished cell phones. Through our Reuse program, Shelter Alliance distributes cell phones to wireless markets worldwide in need of affordable communication. The reuse of used electronics is applauded by many environmentalists as an essential step in the electronics recycling process.

**Refining:** How Shelter Alliance Recycles Non-Reusable Cell Phones  
Approximately 40% of recycled cell phones do not have resale value, and are processed through our environmentally responsible "Refining" program. Through the Refining program, phones are shredded and smelted at our copper refiner, and various metals are "reclaimed" back to their natural state. This process, often referred to as "above ground mining", is applauded by many environmentalists as an essential step in the replenishment of our natural resources.



### How Can You Get their Donated item to WomenSafe?

Because of our confidential location, we ask that you either drop off your item at the Ilsley Public Library (please tell the front desk person that it's for WomenSafe) or call Carol at 388-9180 to arrange a pick up location. We appreciate you taking the time to make a donation! Thank you.

# Youth as Leaders in Their Lives

By Willow Wheelock, *Training & Education Coordinator*

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**Y**outh experience and have to navigate many of the same circumstances that adults do: drug use and addictions, sexual assault or harassment, oppression (sexism, homophobia, racism, classism etc), abuse, control and/or violence in their dating relationships, abuse of power by others, alcoholism and more. And while many youth may have access to programs or supports for these issues, rarely are there real opportunities for youth to take the lead in working towards social change; instead, youth are ‘clients’ in adult-driven programs aimed to address, end or offer healing from the circumstances they experience. This is important, but it is also equally (or more) important that youth are engaged as leaders and organizers for systemic, social change.

There are five stages on the youth engagement continuum that move adults’ work with youth from intervention to systemic change:

- The first stage is youth services, which defines young people as clients who have no input into program decision making and addresses problems on an individual basis;
- The second stage, youth development meets youth where they are at and supports partnerships between youth and adults where youth provide input into program decision making. It builds young people’s individual competency and provides opportunities for growth and development;
- Youth leadership deepens young people’s historical and cultural understanding of their experiences and community issues. It also increases the capacity for youth to be decision makers and problem solvers by building youth leadership opportunities and increasing their participation in community projects;

- Civic engagement engages young people in political education and awareness and helps them to build a collective identity of themselves as social change agents. It also engages them in advocacy and builds their capacity for analyzing power and acting on issues important to them;
- Lastly, youth organizing involves youth as a core part of staff and the governing bodies; it builds a membership base of youth who engage in alliances and coalitions, direct action and political mobilizing.

This is a continuum of youth engagement that ranges from intervention to organizing. Creating authentic opportunities for youth to participate on the higher end of the spectrum is important work that recognizes their capacity for critical thinking and as effective change-makers in their community and the world. Given all the trials and tribulations youth will experience that closely mirror the experiences of adults, it is only appropriate (and empowering) that they be given the same opportunities to make their world a safer, more just, equitable place.



## ONE BILLION RISING 2014 Dance, Strike, Rise for Justice

By Foresta Castañeda, *Outreach Advocate*

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One Billion Women are abused in their lifetimes and that is far too many. One is too many. Last year WomenSafe lead the community in a successful public strike in honor of One Billion Rising on February 14, 2013—the 15th Anniversary of V-DAY founded by Eve Ensler. We danced, sang, created music and spoke out in solidarity with women from across the globe. WomenSafe is currently seeking volunteers interested in being a part of the planning process for ONE Billion Rising on February 14, 2014. Tasks include but are not limited to the following: planning and logistics, media and advertising, speakers, performers, dancers and choreographers, etc. Youth, survivors and men are encouraged to participate. For more information and to get involved call Foresta at 388-9180.

[www.onebillionrising.org](http://www.onebillionrising.org)

### Cash for Consignment

If you have gently used clothes or household items, consider donating them to Neat Repeats and designating WomenSafe as the recipient of the proceeds. If you’re able to contribute in this way, Neat Repeats has the following reminders to donors:

- They gladly accept clean, current styles of clothing
- Consignments must arrive in the shop during business hours. Please do not drop them, with a note, into the outside donation box
- If Neat Repeats has to launder items, they become the property of the shop and not a sale for WomenSafe
- There is a difference between sellable and useable items; WomenSafe only makes money on the sellable items

For more information, call Neat Repeats at 388-4488 or Carol at 388-9180.

Music Review

# Sing, Song, What's In A Song?

By Willow Wheelock, *Training & Education Coordinator*

This summer produced a lot of great pop-culture musical hits ~ songs with fun beat and rhythm. One of those songs, Blurred Lines, by artist Robin Thicke received quite a bit of attention with the lyrics' accompaniment of a music video that became controversial and initiated much public discourse about feminism and whether the video and lyrics represent women's equality to or women's oppression under men's power. The problem with his song is that on the surface, it absolutely promotes and embodies a rape culture; even though some people believe that after careful dissection with strong critical thinking that Blurred Lines may, sort of, represent women's growing equality.

Conversely, with Macklemore's hit summer song, Same Love, it is not necessary to critically think through the lyrics/music video to understand the messages of equality and empowerment, oppression and inequality.

His lyrics give listeners cause to consider some of the negative cultural and subliminal conditioning that occurs and impacts us, our families, friends and peers. His lyrics also instigate listeners to embrace equality, fight oppression and speak up when wrongs occur.

**He holds the genre of music that his songs represent accountable for its oppressive culture:**

"If I was gay  
I would think hip-hop hates me...  
...A word routed in hate  
Yet our genre still ignores it..."

**He acknowledges how there is not neutrality in being a bystander; with oppressors and oppressed, silent bystanders take the side of the oppressor:**

"When everyone else  
Is more comfortable  
Remaining voiceless  
Rather than fighting for humans  
That have had their rights stolen"

**He proudly acknowledges his different-ness:**

"I might not be the same  
But that's not important"

**and speaks for equality:**

"No freedom 'til we're equal  
Damn right I support it...  
...'Till the day

That my uncles can be united by law...  
And a certificate on paper  
Isn't gonna solve it all  
But it's a damn good place to start"

**He speaks clearly about how hurtful oppression is to our youth:**

"Kids are walkin' around the hallway  
Plagued by pain in their heart  
A world so hateful  
Someone would rather die  
Than be who they are"

**And encourages listeners to take action:**

"No law's gonna change us  
We have to change us...  
Strip away the fear  
Underneath it's all the same love  
About time that we raised up"

**Macklemore's song is as catchy as they come and more worthy of everyone's listening ears. When the music accompanies Macklemore's lyrics, it is a creation worth listening to again and again. For full lyrics and music, go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlVBg7\\_08n0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlVBg7_08n0)**



## Help Us...

### ...by Going Paperless!

WomenSafe works hard to conserve our environment. Please help us by signing up to receive The Advocate via email. Your participation means that not only would we save more trees and use less petroleum products in the production and distribution of this newsletter, but you would also be helping us to continue to raise awareness and consciousness of the issues faced by families, friends and neighbors who are being victimized by their partners or other people in their lives — but in a cost-effective manner.

Thank you to our 97 e-readers who receive the newsletter via email! If you would like to "Go Paperless," let us know at [info@womensafe.net](mailto:info@womensafe.net). In order to avoid gaps in delivery, please inform us of any email address changes by calling Carol at 388-9180.

## Thank You!

A special thank you to Karen for all her administrative support, to Yvonne for her support with our mailings and to Connie for her consistent office coverage when the staff is unavailable!

*The* **Advocate**

Newsletter of WomenSafe

**WomenSafe Provides:**

**Advocacy Services** ■

*(Free and Confidential)*

24-hour Hotline

Information & Referrals

Emotional Support

Medical Advocacy

Legal Advocacy

Transitional Housing  
 Support & Advocacy

Systems Advocacy

Support Groups

**Community Outreach** ■  
**and Education**

**Supervised Visitation** ■  
**& Monitored Exchange**

# Looking for Nominations!

WomenSafe is now accepting nominations for the Kimberly Krans Women Who Change the World Award. Each year, a nomination committee selects a local woman whose work or volunteer efforts have had positive impacts on the women and/or children in our community. If you know a local woman who deserves recognition for her amazing work, please submit an essay in 500 words or less that describes her, her efforts and the reasons you believe she should be the recipient of the 2014 Kimberly Krans Women Who Change the World Award. Please email your nomination to [info@womensafe.net](mailto:info@womensafe.net) or mail it to the Nomination Committee, PO Box 67, Middlebury, VT 05753 no later than December 31, 2013.

**WomenSafe Mission Statement:** WomenSafe works toward the elimination of physical, sexual and emotional violence against women and their children through direct service, education and social change.

WomenSafe does not necessarily share the opinions expressed by the writers and reserves the right to edit and determine the content of ***The Advocate***.

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