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*Language interpretation services available.*

*Deaf callers please use telephone relay.*

# Survival Sex & Sex Trafficking

By Foresta Castañeda, *Transitional Housing Program Coordinator*

The issue of trading sex for housing or what is sometimes referred to as "survival sex" was brought to light after a widely reported arrest last year. The charges of sexual assault stemmed from allegations that the defendant forced female tenants to have sex with him (the landlord) or with migrant farm workers in lieu of paying rent or paying lower rent. At the time of the arrest, the prosecutor called the case "unusual" and said that his office had never brought charges similar to these in his 30 years as State's attorney ("...charges highlight 'survival sex', economic exploitation, advocates say", *VT Digger*, May 2015).

Advocates for survivors of domestic and sexual violence across the state were quick to acknowledge that this is not a new concern, but one that they have seen as an increasing problem in recent years. Advocates suggest that sexual predators often look to exploit their victim's poverty in order to exert control over them and prevent them from going to authorities. Sexual predators seek out vulnerable people and poverty increases vulnerability. The fact that few sexual predators are facing prosecution for similar acts points to both deficiencies in the state's sexual assault and human trafficking laws and barriers that victims face in coming forward to report these kinds of crimes. So called "survivor sex" is a gray area that some states consider

human trafficking ("Media campaign looks to raise awareness about the intersection of sex, drug trafficking," *VT Digger*, November 2015). The combination of sexual predators looking for vulnerable victims to exploit and the lack of safe and affordable housing in Vermont creates an environment that is ripe for sexual assault to occur. These survivors are often struggling to meet their basic needs including housing, food and employment. Many become precariously housed after fleeing domestic violence or other abuse and then find themselves being preyed upon and coerced into unwanted sexual acts in exchange for couch surfing or another housing option or for other basic needs such as food. Many of these cases are never reported because the survivors either don't see this exploitation as a crime or worry that reporting it will make their current circumstances worse (such as becoming homeless). In other cases survivors are intimidated into thinking that authorities won't believe them or worse- that they will see them as somehow committing a crime instead of seeing them as the victim of one.

The issue of "survival sex" is a part of the larger issue of sex and human trafficking both here in Vermont and nationally. According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center the National Human Trafficking Hotline that they operate received 21,947 calls from people concerned

(Continued on page 7)

# LOCAL STUDENTS RESPOND TO *The Hunting Ground* Documentary

By Annie Mientka, *Outreach Advocate*

The following is a compilation of creative writing and multi-media responses by local high school students who watched *The Hunting Ground*, a documentary in which Andrea Pino and Annie Clark, sexual assault survivors from the University of North Carolina, expose the prevalence of sexual assault on U.S. campuses and the systems that failed them post-assault. Andrea and Annie travel around the U.S., assisting students in filing Title IX complaints against the universities that do not adequately respond to their sexual assaults.



*“Shocking... Hearing stories from all types of victims show me that I want to be the type of person that can be supportive when big universities aren't, because of the fear of a bad reputation.”*

—A.P., student

*“The thought of not feeling safe in a place I should be able to call home for four years is scary.”*

—Kamille Snell, senior

*“The movie *The Hunting Ground* portrays the issue very well by focusing on colleges and how common sexual assaults are on campuses.”*

—Tucker Paradee, senior

Collage by Kamille Snell in response to the "Carry that Weight" project mentioned in *The Hunting Ground*.

## LOCAL STUDENTS RESPOND (continued from page 2)

# Women's Struggle Against Sexual Assault in College

Teona Trombly, *High School Senior*

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) estimates that 95% of U.S. campus rapes go unreported. Throughout the hundreds of colleges, 79% of women who are physically forced and 88% of women who are incapacitated by sexual assaults are assaulted by someone they know. Facts show that freshmen and sophomore college students are at a greater risk for being a victim of rape rather than juniors and seniors. This is because the younger class students are just dipping their toes in the water and aren't aware of what college is like. The purpose of attending a college is to further one's education in the hopes of achieving an ideal career. Due to some colleges ignoring these issues and putting blame on the survivors, they are afraid to report the incidents and reach out for support. Being a senior in high school, I am looking into the possibility of attending college, and I shouldn't have to worry about whether or not something like this could happen to me.

In an interview in 2014, Senator Claire McCaskill stated that it is required by the federal law to follow up on reports of sexual assault. However, some schools have failed to even provide the basic training on how to do that. In fact, almost 73% of schools don't even have protocols for how authorities on campus and law enforcement should work together when they are faced with these cases. It's also been noted that more than 20% of universities give permission to their athletic departments to overlook sexual violence cases that involve college athletes. It's alarming to know that colleges have more people reporting sexual assaults than some colleges have investigating them.

When survivors come forward, they are seeking as much support as possible. They are scared, hesitant, and need help from anyone who is willing



This painting is of a woman, holding out her hand. On her hand it says, "1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence." I chose to do the background color purple because that is the national color for domestic violence awareness. I chose to do this for my final project because we have been learning a lot about rape and abuse on college campuses and I felt that doing this painting showed a piece of that huge problem that has been going on. We have been learning a lot about colleges and how they sometimes do little to help support their students when they come forward accusing someone of rape. Especially if the accused person is a student athlete who is vital to their sports team. Colleges sometimes care more about its reputation than the well being of its students.

—Morgan Pratt

to listen and comfort them. Even other women sometimes look at cases and assume "she was just drunk, she wore a short skirt, I don't do that so it won't happen to me." They're too quick to think that it won't ever happen to them until it does. If a group of women ages 18-24 are interviewed, they are likely to say that just starting a conversation in a bar can make any women partially responsible for being sexually assaulted. Blaming the victim isolates him or her and makes it harder for them to come forward and report the abuse. When survivors are aware that society or a group of people are blaming them for the assault, survivors will not feel comfortable or safe to come forward to report it.

Everyone can assist by not blaming and not ignoring survivors who reach

out for support and help. Communities should work together to create protocols that result in a safer environment for all students.

1. <http://www.nsvrc.org/saam/campus-resource-list>
2. <http://college.usatoday.com/2015/09/21/controversial-1-in-5-sexual-assault-statistic-validated-in-national-survey/>
3. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/07/09/claire-mccaskill-college-sexual-assault-report/12400401/>
4. <http://www.cbssports.com/collegefootball/writer/jon-solomon/24613222/study-over-20-of-colleges-let-athletic-departments-investigate-sexual-violence>
5. <https://www.southernct.edu/sexual-misconduct/facts.html>
6. <http://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/preventing-sexual-assault/>
7. <http://www.aauw.org/article/clery-act-data-analysis/>
8. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/stop-blaming-victims-for-sexual-assaults-on-campus/2014/02/24/b88efb1e-9d8f-11e3-9ba6-800d1192d08b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/stop-blaming-victims-for-sexual-assaults-on-campus/2014/02/24/b88efb1e-9d8f-11e3-9ba6-800d1192d08b_story.html)
9. <http://jezebel.com/5471939/study-women-young-people-blame-victims-for-sexual-assault>

# The Role of Bystanders to Sexual Violence

By Kellie Coakley, Champlain College Student Intern

In 1964 Kitty Genovese was headed home to her New York City apartment after a long day at work. She had just finished parking her car in the parking lot and began walking towards her building. Seconds later she suffered a brutal sexual assault and was murdered while her neighbors did nothing. Psychologists Bibb Latane and John Darley describe what happened in this situation as the “bystander effect.” When a crime happens in a place with many witnesses often times no one will step in to help because they assume someone else will.

In 2009 a fifteen year old California girl was gang raped at her homecoming dance while at least 10 students stood by and watched, yet did nothing to attempt to stop it or alert authorities. When one person witnesses a crime they feel like they have more responsibility to help stop it because they are the only one who watched it happen. However, when a group of people witness a crime they feel less responsible to take action because they assume someone else will. Another thing that might happen when several people witness a crime together is that each individual might not know what to do. Their first response is to look around them and see how everyone else is reacting, if nobody is reacting the individual often feels as though they shouldn't react either. This is often called “social influences.” We don't want to stick out as different so we do what everyone else around us is doing. Have you ever been walking through the grocery store and witnessed a couple arguing? Maybe one person is verbally abusing their part-

ner. It's easy to just continue walking or ignore the situation; however that is being a bystander.

There are many reasons why people don't want to get involved in other people's problems. But when everyone ignores these situations we are sending the message to the people involved and to society that it is acceptable to act that way. If we want to end the cycle of domestic or sexual violence we as people in our community need to take responsibility to help step up and make that change we need to become active bystanders.

An active bystander is someone who will confront the person who is being abusive. They will speak up and tell the abuser as well as the person getting abused that what is happening is not okay. If you are worried about your safety in regards to speaking up there are other ways to approach the situation. When thinking about the situation in the grocery store another way to engage is to just interrupt the couple with something irrelevant. Ask them in what aisle to find the milk, or ask if their kid goes to school with your kid. Distracting the couple from their argument even if it is just for a moment might help the abuser calm down enough to stop and realize others are watching. You also don't even have to speak at all. If someone is being abusive you may just stop and watch them for a few minutes, perhaps once they realize you are watching them they might become embarrassed and stop.

You can be an active bystander even in your everyday life. If you have a friend or family member who you suspect is the victim of domestic abuse

talk to them! Don't just assume everything will work itself out, that person might not even realize they are in an abusive relationship. Or they might be too embarrassed to ask for help. Think about what you would want someone to do for you if you were in their situation. As an active bystander if you hear your neighbors in a heated argument do something to intervene. If you are worried about how your neighbors will react and don't want to get involved you can always call the police and report it. That way you'll stay safe but the situation will still get assistance.

Another way you can be an active bystander around your friends and family is by speaking up when someone is making a sexist joke or a degrading comment about women. You may choose not to laugh or respond, but remember saying nothing is the same as saying its okay. Let that person know how the things they are saying are disrespectful and inappropriate. Perhaps nobody has ever pointed that out to them. Or perhaps they really did think it was okay to say, maybe they will think twice before saying it again.

**For more information about Bystanders, please see the references listed below:**

<http://www.loveisrespect.org/content/the-bystandereffect/>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/bystandereffect>

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/CRIME/10/27/california.gang.rape.investigation/index.html>

[www.livethegreendot.com](http://www.livethegreendot.com)

# Supervised Visitation Services

By Heather Harrington, *Supervised Visitation Program Coordinator*

## Why are supervised visitation programs so important?

Supervised Visitation Programs (SVP) provides a safe and neutral environment for children to visit with their non-residential parents when the safety of children and/or the residential parent is a concern. WomenSafe's SVP pays equal regard to the safety and protection of adults who experienced violence and their children. Further, the services provided by the Supervised Visitation Program are in a unique position to support families while they re-adjust and transition into a new family structure.

In most cases, the families who use SVPs have been exposed to violence in their home, where their integrity and safety were compromised regularly. The world that they experienced is much different than many of us may be able to grasp. It is very challenging to fully understand the dynamics of a domestic violence situation, and its full effects on those who experienced violence and their children.

Young children exposed to violence in their home experience many emotions that often result in children feeling confused and uncertain how to express themselves. Often, children are confused by the situation and sometimes conflicted about whether they want to see a parent who has harmed them or the other parent. Generally,

*Programs allow children and the non-residential parent to develop healthy interactions and memories.*

once visits start and the family adjusts to their new situation the parent/child time becomes more relaxed and normalized for everyone. In many cases children love both parents and despite having witnessed abuse or having been abused themselves, they often want to maintain a relationship with both parents. They (and those who care about them) just want the contact to be safe.

SVPs are able to provide a safe environment with trained staff who supervises all parent/child contact. Programs allow children and the non-residential parent to develop healthy interactions and memories. Programs also add to the residential parent's peace of mind that their children are safe. They also are in a unique position to offer children an opportunity to safely express themselves ultimately empowering them, building confidence and self-resiliency.

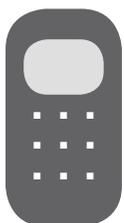
Despite the complexities of working with families who experience domestic violence, WomenSafe is dedicated to providing this valuable service at no cost to families. We believe that

by providing this service we are playing our part in the community's response to dating, domestic and sexual violence and stalking, while providing a level of safety to children, parents and the community.

WomenSafe could not provide this service without the ongoing support of community partners. The Frank Mahady Courthouse provides a visitation space and meeting rooms for staff to meet with families and conduct visitations. The Addison County Sheriff's Department provides on-site security allowing our staff and families to feel an increased level of safety. We could not do this work without them.

Thank you to the dedicated SVP monitors who have tirelessly provided a combined total of 14 years services to families in Addison County.

The SVP is always looking for donations such as store gift cards, arts and craft supplies, board games, etc. If you are interested in learning more about Supervised Visitation services or are interested in being trained as a monitor, please contact Heather at 388-6783.



## Donate Your Old Cell Phone to WomenSafe

Please consider donating your old or broken cell phones/Smartphones to WomenSafe. We can include them in stalking kits or recycle them for cash. If you would like to donate a phone, please call us at 388-9180.

# Immigration Policy: Gendered Paths to Citizenship

By Charlotte Boghossian, Lily Sawyer and Helen McEvoy, *Middlebury College Students*

Immigration has long been a hotly debated issue within the United States political landscape, but debate rarely probes beyond the surface level schisms between parties. What politicians fail to discuss is the highly gendered system that reveals itself beneath the surface, consisting of laws that work against women's ability to immigrate into the country.

Media coverage of immigration across the globe provides us with a male dominant narrative, failing to address the experience of female immigrants at all, much less the particular difficulties the system confronts them with based on their gender. In the images we see and the stories we hear about an immigrants journey, men occupy the forefront.

In a recent article for *The Guardian*, Patrick Kingsley reports on a migrant detention center in Libya, and in his extensive, multimedia exploration of immigrant experiences, he fails to interview a single female detainee, showing photographs and video footage almost exclusively of men. The article, like many others, does not address the gender specific factors that drive men and women from their home countries. Through this failure to address the role of gender in immigration as well as the active exclusion of women from the immigration narrative, the female immigrant experience is swept under the rug, making it difficult to see and therefore change the elements of immigration systems that work against women.

Immigration scholars have recently begun to address the gendered nature of our immigration system, correcting this long upheld invisibility of the female immigrant and urging change. In a 2013 study for the Immigration Policy Center, Cecilia Menjivar and Olivia Salcido examined

the stark differences in the way U.S. immigration law deals with men and women.

First, visa categorization requires women to rely on male relatives in order to obtain visas. Women often hold domestic jobs in the U.S., and these jobs are not classified as high demand jobs and therefore do not qualify for visas.

Additionally, Menjivar and Salcido found that the implementation of immigration processes proves to be biased against women applicants. Even when women have non-domestic jobs, they are often viewed as dependents within a household, making it more difficult for them to obtain legal status on their own. In cases of political asylum, women are often denied refuge because of the difficulty of proving political persecution for acts such as harboring guerillas, while men are more quickly believed to be in danger for activities such as fighting with guerilla forces. Similarly, women seeking protection from violence, are required to provide evidence that they live with their abuser. Because men more easily obtain visas and are often the main breadwinner, bills and documents are often under the man's name and therefore legal evidence of a woman's residence within a home is rare. Thus, even within laws that seek to protect women we see a failure to understand the particular position and needs of female immigrants that adds to the difficulty of immigration. Each of these implicit biases written into our current system force women to rely upon men throughout the immigration process.

Following settlement in the US, immigrant experiences often diverge based on gender. Of the pool of immigrant or migrant patients, Open Door Clinic (ODC), a health care resource that serves uninsured and underin-

sured patients in Middlebury, treated 37 women and 257 men in 2015. According to ODC, female immigrants working in Addison County work as housekeepers, on dairy farms, or stay home caring for their families. Most of these women are likely undocumented, as the dairy industry provides most non-domestic work and the year round nature of this work disqualifies these workers from obtaining seasonal agricultural visas.

Julia Doucet, ODC's outreach nurse, explains the ramifications of this policy, "[it] creates a system where men, primarily, will enter the US illegally and find work. They work long hours to make money to send home to support their wives and children. The mental and emotional toll of this separation on both men and women is severe. Men will often be away from their families for five years or more, missing out on their children's growth and development and from any ongoing intimacy with their wives."

The gender specific trials of female immigrants or dependents in Addison County represent a microcosm of the larger migrant community. Immigration policy makes legal entry into the country particularly difficult for women, pushing male heads of households to immigrate, legally or illegally, in order to support their families, and forcing women to be dependent upon their husbands or male relatives. Without specifically addressing the ways in which our immigration policy excludes women at every step of the immigration process, female immigrants cannot achieve agency in their own path to legalization.

<sup>1</sup> Patrick Kingsley, "Risking Death in the editerranean," *The Guardian* (17 April 2015).

<sup>2</sup> Cecilia Menjivar and Olivia Salcido, "Gendered Paths to Legal Status," Immigration Policy Center (May 2013).

# Survival Sex & Sex Trafficking

(Continued from page 1)

about human trafficking and reported a total of 5,544 unique cases of human trafficking that were reported nationally in 2015. The National Human Trafficking Hotline also keeps data on calls received by state and reported that in 2015 they received 28 calls from Vermonters concerned about human trafficking activity and identified 5 unique cases of human trafficking (including sex trafficking) for Vermont (National Human Trafficking Resource Center, [www.traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org), February 2016).

Prosecutors, law enforcement and advocates in Vermont are becoming increasingly aware and concerned about the connections between the sex trafficking and the drug trade in the state. A recent review of large drug cases prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s office, First Assistant Attorney Geni Cowles stated that “women are more likely than men to support providing housing, cars, contact lists, transporting drugs and doing minor dealing. Often they are also being trafficked for sex.”

“Seventy-five percent of the people who support drug dealers are women. Sixty percent were under 30, some as young as teenagers and almost all of them had addictions, most prevalently heroin, Cowles said. One-quarter of the women reported having some kind of romantic relationship with their dealer.” said Cowles (“Media campaign looks to raise awareness about the intersection of sex, drug trafficking, *VT Digger*, November 2015).

In order to raise public awareness about sex trafficking and warn

young women of the risks of being trafficked the U.S. Attorney’s Office and the Vermont Human Trafficking Taskforce have teamed up to launch a public awareness campaign called “U Can Stop Traffick.” The PSA shows a victim of sex trafficking in a progression of interactions with her trafficker/drug dealer in order to show the grooming behaviors that the trafficker uses to lure the victim and the progressively controlling and violent actions of the perpetrator to keep the victim entrapped in the situation. The goal of the campaign is to help people to understand what human trafficking and sex trafficking can look like and to encourage people to reach out for support with what they are seeing. Anyone concerned about human or sex trafficking in Vermont is encouraged to call their local domestic or sexual violence program, call 211 (a point of entry for the Rapid Response Support System for victims of trafficking), or access any of the following resources for more information:

**Give Way to Freedom:**  
<http://www.givewaytofreedom.org/>

**Coalition of Vermonters Against Slavery Today (COVAST):** <http://covast.wix.com/human-end-slavery-in-vermont;>

**Vermont Human Trafficking Hotline:**  
1-888-984-8626 or the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-3737-888.

<sup>1</sup> “McAllister charges highlight ‘survival sex’, economic exploitation, advocates say.” *VT Digger*. May 11, 2015.  
<sup>2</sup> National Human Trafficking Resource Center. <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org>. 2/26/16.  
<sup>3</sup> Media Campaign Looks to raise awareness about the intersection of sex, drug trafficking. *VT Digger*. Nov. 2, 2015.

## Special Thanks

A special thank you to the Turtle Fur Group of Morrisville for donating hats, ear warmers and neck warmers! We hung all the items on a clothesline in our office to make them available for people coming into our office. These beautiful creations made our office space festive and help keep people warm during the dark, cold winter. Thank you Turtle Fur!

## A Wish List

Please consider donating an item that can make a huge difference in the lives of people fleeing domestic or sexual violence. WomenSafe often needs the following items:

- Prepaid gas & phone cards
- Gift certificates or gift cards to following local businesses:
  - ◆ grocery stores
  - ◆ salons for haircuts
  - ◆ laundromats
  - ◆ restaurants or delis (sandwich shops)
  - ◆ clothing stores
- Razors/shaving cream
- Chapstick
- Deodorant
- Brushes/combs
- Decks of cards

If you are able to make a donation, please mail it to WomenSafe, PO Box 67, Middlebury, VT 05753 or call us at 388-9180 to arrange a pick up location. If you mail it, please include your name and address so we can send you a thank you note.

## •• Spring Has Arrived! •••••

If you have gently used clothes or household items, please consider donating them to Neat Repeats and designating WomenSafe as the recipient of the proceeds. For more information, call Neat Repeats at 388-4488 or Carol at 388-9180.

# Dress Codes: For Better or For Worse?

By Tori Ramon, *Addison County Resident and Washington State University Student*

Dress codes...preventing sexual harassment or victim-shaming? This seems to be a controversial topic lately, because all over the world, in schools especially, we hear about dress codes. We hear about how they are more specific to female students, and how female students are judged more harshly by what they wear.

An article on *Time.com*, talks about a few different dress codes that are enforced not just in America, but all over the world. For example, in the UK, a female student was given detention because her shoulders were bare (Bates, 2015). When it comes to rules like this, we are not preventing sexual harassment, we are telling girls that boys' education is more important than theirs (Bates, 2015). The reasons given for rules like this are ridiculous, such as saying that the dress code is in place because boys get distracted and cannot control themselves. We need to hold boys accountable for their actions and teach them that it is not okay to harass females in any way, no matter what the situation is.

Another article that I found interesting was written by UmmeKulsoom Arif, posted on [www.tmn.truman.edu](http://www.tmn.truman.edu); it talked about how sending a female student home because of her outfit is "distracting" to the male next to her, is not right (2015). By doing this, a message is sent to a female student that her education is not as important as the male student next to her (Arif, 2015). The female student is being sexualized by not just her male peers, but also by her teachers, even though she may not know it.

This happens even younger than in high schools; a *Time.com* article talks about how a pre-high school female student got in trouble for dressing "provocatively" even though she did not even know what that word meant (Bates, 2015). Society is starting to sexualize females at younger and younger ages, which is not right. By doing this, we are saying that if a female student is sexually harassed, or even worse, raped, it is partly their fault, which is far from the truth.

We as a nation need to send a message that it is not okay, no matter

what the person may be wearing, to automatically assume they want "it" or they were asking for "it." The "boys will be boys" saying has absolutely no merit when it comes to something as serious as this. People should be taught that their actions have consequences; they need to be accountable for their actions.

Finally, it is important for all people who experience sexual harassment or sexual assault to know that it is in no way their fault for what somebody did to them. They did not "ask for it," no matter what they were wearing, what they said, how they were acting, etc.

So I ask again, are dress codes preventing sexual harassment or victim-shaming?

#### References:

- Arif, U. (2015). Student-produced news and entertainment. Retrieved December 6, 2015, from <http://tmn.truman.edu/blog/editorial/dress-codes-dont-prevent-harassment/>
- Bates, L. (2015). How School Dress Codes Shame Girls and Perpetuate Rape Culture. Retrieved December 6, 2015, from <http://time.com/3892965/everydaysexism-school-dress-codes-rape-culture/>



## Benefit Bake for WomenSafe

Wednesday, May 4, 2016 • 5:00–9:00 pm

Eat In or Take Out—\$3 from the sale of each Flatbread (\$1.50 per small) will be donated!

For more info please call: American Flatbread 388-3300, or Womensafe 388-9180

# Proposed Changes to Vermont's Stalking Legislation

By Foresta Castañeda, *Transitional Housing Program Coordinator*

This legislative session law makers are considering a bill that proposes substantial changes to Vermont's existing civil and criminal stalking statutes. The changes would broaden the definition of what constitutes stalking and expand the number of people who can seek protection. Court records show that in a given year 700 people will file civil court orders seeking protection from stalking or sexual violence in Vermont but only about a quarter of these orders are granted. The Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (Network) reports that they often hear from people who experience violence that they have tried numerous times to get civil protection orders against stalkers without success. They say the existing law is vague and only prohibits overt threats to a person's safety. "We wanted to be really clear that stalking is a crime that isn't necessarily as overt as it is repetitive

and creating fear, and that there are many actions that amount to threatening behavior," Autumn Watersong, Associate Director of Public Policy at the Network, says. She proposes that to best serve victims the law needs to criminalize the tactics that many stalkers employ. That would mean making illegal a course of conduct that would make a reasonable person fear for their safety, even if the individual acts involved aren't criminal. The proposed changes would clarify the specific activities that would constitute a course of conduct for stalking behavior. While in the existing statute stalking is defined by a course of conduct that would cause a reasonable person to fear physical harm, the new proposed changes would broaden the definition to include conduct and contact that would cause a reasonable person substantial emotional distress. The definition for "reasonable person" would be changed to mean a reasonable person

in the victim's circumstances. The changes would also expand the definition of non-physical contact to include phone, mail, email and social media and other electronic media that were not already included in the existing law. The proposed changes would also provide clarification and expansion of existing criminal stalking and sexual assault statutes and civil orders against stalking and sexual assault. The full text of the bill *H. 818 An Act relating to Stalking* can be viewed on the Vermont Legislative website at: [www.legislature.vermont.gov](http://www.legislature.vermont.gov).

<sup>1</sup> To Better Protect Victims, Legislature Seeks to Expand Definition of Stalking. Vermont Public Radio. <http://digital.vpr.net/post/better-protect-victims-legislature-seeks-expand-definition-stalking#stream/0> Feb. 16, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> An Act Relating to Stalking. VT LEG #312501 v.1. [www.legislature.vermont.gov](http://www.legislature.vermont.gov) January 22nd, 2016.

## 2016 WomenSafe Annual Volunteer Training SIGN UP TODAY!

Do you have a desire to help to make your community a more just and safe place to live? Are you looking for a rewarding volunteer experience? We are now accepting applications for our 2016 Volunteer Training! This comprehensive and dynamic training opportunity is scheduled to start Wednesday, September 21st and go through early-October.

We encourage you to apply today! The training will prepare volunteers to provide direct service through our 24-hour hotline, at court hearings, and in the office; coordinate and assist with public awareness and community outreach events; provide childcare or perform administrative assistance tasks; and much more. Space is limited. For more details or information, please call us at 388-9180 or email us at [info@womensafe.net](mailto:info@womensafe.net). An application can be mailed to you or downloaded from our website: [www.womensafe.net](http://www.womensafe.net).



## KIMBERLY KRANS

# Women Who Change the World Award Celebration

By Christina Grier, *Services Director*

WomenSafe was pleased to honor Barbara Wagner as the recipient of the 2016 Kimberly Krans Women Who Change the World Award (Kimberly Krans Award) on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 in Middlebury. Over 65 relatives, friends and colleagues of Barb attended the celebration!

Barbara Wagner is a resident of Bridport and has held various roles during her 40+ year career as a nurse at Porter Medical Center. Barbara acquired extensive training to become one of only three Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) nurses and is the only pediatric SANE in Addison

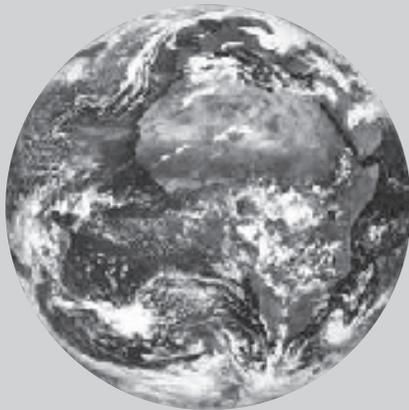
County. She has been a leader in developing Vermont Medical Standards for sexual assault victims and an active committee member setting SANE Policy and Procedures, committee member of Ladders, educating medical staff, and setting up Braslow Boxes for Pediatric providers.

In 1999 Barbara received her Medical Examiner License and became one of two Assistant Medical Examiners in Addison County and has also been Bridport's Town Health Officer since 1984. Barb is a member of the Addison County Unit of Special Investigation and Town Line First Response Squad. She works tire-

lessly for her community where she is an active member of the Bridport Congregational Church, has been a Boy and Girl Scouts' Leader, 4-H Leader and has traveled abroad for Medical Missions. She has also been a United Way Board and Committee Member. Since 2007 Barbara has co-chaired and served Community Suppers on Friday evenings in Bridport for the whole community.

We were truly honored to shed some light on such a dedicated woman who continues to make a tremendous impact on our community. The award ceremony is held in March as part of National Women's History Month.

## 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—in a cost-effective manner.

Thank you to our more than 122 e-readers who already 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.

# READER RESPONSE TO Rape Culture Poem

The following was written in response to the “Rape Culture” poem by Tyler Harris that appeared in our Fall 2015 newsletter:

It makes me sad  
that I cannot gaze at a woman  
without feeling that I may be intimidating her.  
It makes me sad  
that rape is so pervasive.  
It makes me sad  
that racism and sexism is so pervasive.  
It makes me glad  
that people like Tyler are speaking out.  
It makes me glad  
that Susan Veguez is honored by WomenSafe.  
I always thought she had a lot of class,  
but never felt it appropriate to tell her so.

—Anonymous



## WOMENSAFE OFFERS Peer Support Group

WomenSafe recently began offering a peer support style support group for survivors of domestic and sexual violence who were looking to break isolation and meet and learn from others with similar experiences. We just completed a successful 6 week session utilizing art and writing activities to explore trauma and healing. WomenSafe plans to offer additional group sessions

### *A Story of Community Response*

*In a shanty town on the outskirts of Lima, Peru a husband woke his sleeping wife in the middle of the night. Reluctantly, the woman agreed to go. The couple joined many members of the village outside the house of a woman who had just been abused by her partner.*

*Despite the late hour, men, women and children waited together protecting the woman until her abuser left the village.*

*The community came together to take a stand against the violence and support the victim – a true coordinated community response.*



starting soon and ongoing in the future. If you are interested in attending an upcoming group or know someone who is interested, please call the hotline at 388-4205 for more information, screening and to get on the waiting list (if a session has already started). Please ask to speak with Foresta or Annie.

**The Advocate**

Newsletter of WomenSafe

**WomenSafe Provides:**

- **Advocacy Services**  
 (Free and Confidential)  
 24-hour Hotline  
 Information & Referrals  
 Emotional Support  
 Medical Advocacy  
 Legal Advocacy  
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**Available for \$18.**

They are available in black and cream; sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL (sizes tend to run small); and in curvy & box style-cuts. Call us to place your order!

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

*The Advocate*  
 WomenSafe  
 Spring 2016: Volume 22 • Issue 1

Editor: Christina Grier  
 Graphic Designer: Valerie Costello  
 Printed at Middlebury College's  
 Printing Services



Return Service Requested  
**PO Box 67**  
**Middlebury, VT 05753**

Committed to ending domestic and sexual violence  
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