



- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services
 - Strategies to End Gender-Based Violence
 - Crime Victims Services

FORMERLY ROCKLAND FAMILY SHELTER

annual report

Carolyn's Message



Carolyn Fish, Executive Director

Reflecting back on 2012, I see a year of change, celebration, loss, challenges, and continued growth in our work by our dedicated staff, board and volunteers on behalf of survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes.

Our celebrations were many, not the least of which was honoring our dear friend and supporter, Gloria Steinem, with our 2012 Distinguished Citizen Award. Our most devastating loss was our dear colleague, mentor and friend, Lynn Sheinkin, in August of 2012. We have honored her memory by renaming the program she led for so many years, the *Lynn Sheinkin Department for Education and Social Change*.

Like most years, the challenges we faced were many and varied. Possibly the most difficult has been the continuing reduction in financial support from all levels of government—federal, state and local—as they deal with their own fiscal crises. In response, we are seeking to generate more private support for our programs as we continue to expand our fundraising and seek new partners for some of our programs and services. I thank all of you who have responded so generously to our annual appeals, and ask that you stay with us and help us weather this latest budgetary challenge in 2013.

Another significant change we experienced was the completion of Michael Mandel's two-terms as President of our Board of Directors. When Michael first became involved with the Rockland Family Shelter, he began what would become almost a second career as an activist, volunteer, and leader. From the time he joined the Board in 2003, he made meaningful contributions and in 2008, assumed the Presidency. His almost daily involvement with the agency and its programs was both inspiring and productive, as he sought new donors, recruited new Board and Advisory Council members, led the drive to buy our building and to change our name to the Center for Safety & Change and devoted many hours to our Student Activists Ending Dating Abuse (SAEDA) program.

On behalf of the Center staff, the Board, Advisory Council, and the thousands of women and children we have served during his tenure, I extend my warmest wishes to Michael and I look forward to the new contributions he will be making to the Center as we continue to mature in our mission of ending gender-based violence once and for all.

I want to welcome Rich Rein as our new President, Cindy McMurtrie as our new Vice-President, John Manna and Lisa Hays as Co-Treasurers and Billie Cronin as returning Secretary. We are facing many challenges, but experience has shown me that our vision; strength; strong clear leadership; professional staff; and the support of our community will get us through these challenging times. We must—the lives of thousands of women, children and families in our community depend on our continued success.

2012 Highlights

In addition to providing emergency shelter, the daily hotlines answered, advocacies, accompaniments, safety planning, counseling, providing information and referrals, legal services and assisting crime victims, through our programs and services, these are some of the events that stood out to us.

- Launched Paws for Safety, a program which takes clients' pets into foster care until clients are able to take care of their animals again.
- Started Connecting the Dots, a 6 week support group for parents of sexually abused children, in collaboration with the partner agencies at the Spirit of Rockland Special Victims Center.
- Featured author, Vicki Crompton at our annual Stop F.E.A.R. Conference, co-sponsored by Verizon Wireless,
 Rockland Police Chief's Association and the District Attorney's Office.
 Vicki, whose teen-aged daughter was murdered by her abusive boyfriend, spoke to a full audience of criminal justice and community representatives at RCC, followed by a panel discussion about preventing and addressing teen dating violence.
- Co-hosted, *The Yellow Dress*, at the JCC; a one-woman play about a girl who was verbally and physically abused by her boyfriend and which raises awareness about the issue of domestic violence. Generously sponsored by Atlantic Tomorrow.
- Provided a presentation to day laborers at the *Jornaleros Project*. Over 20 men were trained on intimate partner violence, sexual assault, consent and masculinity.

- Partnered with Rockland Community
 College and the Jewish Heritage
 Month Committee to present Flowers
 Aren't Enough, a play by Naomi
 Ackerman about a woman with an
 abusive partner. The play was followed
 by a panel discussion.
- Partnered with St. Thomas Aquinas
 College for the second annual STAC
 Owns the Night awareness event.
- Provided training to nursing students at Dominican College and Rockland Community College on the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Program (SAFE).
- Sponsored Spring Valley Leaders of Tomorrow, attended by a core group of 10 students per month, providing them with skills to help them make healthy decisions in all areas of their lives.
- Held successive trainings by Joe
 Ehrmann and K.C. Wagner to address domestic violence in the workplace, generously sponsored by KeyBank.







REDC Award
Back L-R: Elizabeth Santiago, Julika Stackelberg, Jan Deegan, Arlene
Gordon, Melissa Almenas, Marlene Rodriguez; Front L-R: Venesia
Defrank, Rich Rein, Carolyn Fish, Kiera Pollock, Kavita Kunte



Erin Scott, Art Poster Winner

Awards & New Appointments

- In February, Rockland Family Shelter received the award for the largest non-profit campaign increase by the **United Way**.
- In November, the Center for Safety & Change received the Service Provider of the Year Award from the Rockland Economic Development Council (REDC).
- Executive Director, Carolyn Fish, received the Camp Venture Sorority of Women Award.
- Erin Scott won the 2012 Art Poster Contest, created by Tracey Brosnan, Esq. of Mandel, Katz & Brosnan LLP, to engage students in raising awareness of violence against women and girls. We thank Tracy and MKB for their continued support of this project.
- In December, the Rockland Development Council honored long-time board member, former board president and volunteer
 Cynthia Diamond as the Volunteer of the Year and Executive Director, Carolyn Fish as Non-Profit Professional of the year.

- Deputy Executive Director of Administration, Elizabeth Santiago, was appointed to the NYS Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team.
- Director of the Law Project, Julie
 Gamache, was elected to the Board of the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV).
- Director of Development, Julika von Stackelberg-Addo, received the 40 Under 40 Award of the Rockland Economic Development Council.



Cynthia Diamond and Carolyn Fish

DELTA Workplace Training with Joe Ehrmann, sponsored by KeyBank

Michael's Message



Michael Mandel, Out-going Board President

This year marks the completion of my two-term, four-year presidency of the Center for Safety & Change's Board of Directors. Much has changed since I was nominated to be President in 2008, and much has not. Among the changes of which I am most proud are our move into our new building, and our change of name from Rockland Family Shelter to Center for Safety & Change. Both were long overdue.

Many of you will remember our cramped, rundown space over a (pungent) luncheonette on Main Street in New City. We had a business requiring 10,000 square feet of space operating out of 2,300 square feet and our rent was not reflective of the poor conditions. Our new building has

provided a welcome respite for our staff and clients, and has allowed us to engage with the community in new and improved ways, including through our Women's Center and conference facilities.

The second dramatic change was our name change, which had been on the minds of our Board and staff for years. While the name "Rockland Family Shelter" reflected our history – in 1979 we opened the first and only shelter for survivors of domestic violence in Rockland County – it was not broad enough to encompass either the full panoply of services that we provide today, or those we hope to provide in the future. Most importantly, the name did not convey the breadth of those services to our potential clients: victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes.

Looking at what has not changed since my presidency began, two things stand out as well. The first of course is the need for our services. The issue of violence against women in all forms is as acute today as it was in 2008, and the systems that support such violence remain complicit in it. And this is true on the local, national and international level. The second thing that has not changed is the governmental response to violence against women. In my experience, the "financial crisis" has become more of an excuse for, rather than the cause of, local, state and federal government's reduced funding and draconian oversight of domestic violence programs.

Finally, though my presidency has come to an end, my involvement with Center for Safety & Change has not. I remain on the Board and have increased my commitment to our teen programs and other prevention efforts, as well as to our funding and budget as we try to cope with and survive the seemingly neverending budgetary cuts to our programs and services.

Thank you to all who have joined me in our struggles and successes over the last four years.

Ellen's Story

In February 2012, Ellen* frantically dialed the 24-hour Hotline number of the Center for Safety & Change. Ellen was scared for her life and the life of her three school-aged children. Her husband's abuse and controlling behaviors were escalating, and lately he had been threatening that if she tried to leave the relationship she would never see her children again.

The sexual assault which she endured that evening was literally the last straw for Ellen. She made the decision to leave her husband and their home with her three children.

Ellen knew what to do next. Over the course of several months, she had secretly been in touch with an

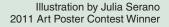
advocate at the Center for Safety & Change. She and her advocate had worked to craft a **safety plan**, which included a strategy for the day when Ellen would make the decision to leave. Ellen grabbed the pre-packed bags she had left in a disguised place, containing important documents and personal essentials for herself and the children, called the **hotline** one more time, and asked to be brought to the **Emergency Shelter**.

Once in a safe setting, Ellen and her children received an array of supportive services from the staff, who helped them take their first tentative steps toward safety. Through individual **counseling** and therapy sessions provided by the staff therapist at the Center's **Sexual Trauma Program**, Ellen began to deal with the trauma of years of emotional, physical and sexual abuse. Advocates at the Shelter also helped Ellen with referrals for medical care and assistance

with **crime victims' benefits applications** and other
resources. In a coordinated effort
to provide consistency and
support to the family, the Center's
Director of **Children's Services**met with the children and the
school counselor, the principal and
the children's teachers.

Women with children who leave their abuser often face a myriad of legal concerns. Ellen was able to meet with one of the **attorneys** on staff at the Center, who specialize in assisting battered women in navigating the legal system. After a free **consultation** at the Center's

Mary Weingard Domestic



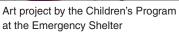
You Are NOT Alone

Violence Law Project, a staff attorney represented her in Family Court proceedings, where she obtained an Order of Protection against her husband and eventually gained custody of her children, as well as an order of child and spousal support. The family was slowly beginning to see new opportunities for their lives again.

While in shelter, Ellen and her children had time to evaluate and think about their options. With some mentoring from members of the Center's **Resource Council** of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, the family began to form a viable foundation for their new lives and eventually, they were ready to make the **transition** from the emergency shelter. Advocates on staff helped Ellen to locate affordable housing and assisted in obtaining furniture and the most important household items.

Ellen and her children continue to receive services at our **walk-in main office**. All three children are doing well in school and Ellen is finally beginning to experience some hope again.





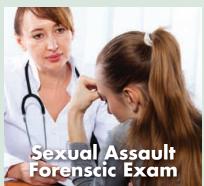




















At the Center for Safety & Change, we meet hundreds of families like Ellen's each year, everyone's story is a bit different, but often there are many similarities.

Our clients often find strength and comfort through the culturally sensitive Support and Empowerment Groups the Center offers in multiple languages. Our advocates help them navigate their legal options; access medical services; find housing; discuss and pursue employment opportunities; and sometimes just provide a listening ear during this difficult time.

Through the Center's violence prevention programs, the DELTA Workplace trainings, the school-based Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program (TDVPP) and the non-school-based SAEDA training (Student Activists Ending Dating Abuse), we implement strategies to ultimately reduce the need for the services families like Ellen's received. Imagine a world free from violence!

The Center for Safety & Change could not provide all of these life-changing and lifesaving programs without the help from caring individuals like you. **Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission** to offer services and support that promote the safety for women and children while challenging and changing the social systems that tolerate and perpetuate violence and oppression against women and others who are oppressed.



CENTER 2012 Impact Summary

Emergency Shelter

While in shelter, advocates provided nearly 595 accompaniments, 2,440 advocacies and developed, reviewed and refined the residents' safety plans 347 times. Shelter staff also provided information and referrals 2,805 times and provided nearly 12,833 units of direct service to the shelter residents, including counseling, child care, transportation, translation and other services.





Non-Residential Domestic Violence Services

Non-residential advocates worked with approximately 300 families each month and developed 2,332 safety plans for victims of intimate partner violence and abuse. 3,568 advocacies were provided along with

1,126 accompaniments. Information and referrals were provided 8,641 times. A total of 16,392 units of direct service, including counseling, child care, transportation, translation and other services were provided.



Staff and volunteers answered a total of 1,692 Hotline Calls

Children's Services

Through the Safe Parents/Safe Kids program, a collaboration with Rockland County Child Protective Services, Center for Safety & Change worked with 89 families 335 times. Center staff also collaborated with VCS to co-facilitate a mother's support group in Spanish on a regular basis, which was attended by a total of 189 women.

Sexual Trauma Services

Advocates in the Sexual Trauma Department served 277 survivors of sexual assault 2,355 times and provided them with over 3,209

Sexual Assault Forensic
Exams were performed
by Center for Safety &
Change nurses
at both
local hospitals

direct service units, including crisis intervention, supportive counseling and therapy. Survivors of sexual assault were provided with over 1,000 information and referrals; and nearly 650 advocacies and 220 accompaniments.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your advice, kindness and support during this time. I've been so grateful for everything since the night this nightmare began for me and my two precious innocent children. I cannot see what the future holds for us at the moment, but I am optimistic because of you.

— intimate partner violence survivor





Comprehensive Crime Victims Services

The victims of crimes and their families received over 800 units of direct service, including counseling, transportation, translation and other services along with 218 information and referrals and 74 advocacies.

Mary Weingard Domestic Violence Law Project

Survivors of domestic violence benefited from 316 free legal consultations by staff attorneys 2,096 times, which included 155 new client consultations. 86



domestic violence clients were represented in Rockland County. 160 cases were litigated for custody and visitation, as well as orders of protection.

Community Outreach

539 community presentations, including radio, TV and print media publications and community presentations reached over 16,000 people about intimate partner violence, sexual assault and strategies to end gender-based violence.

Center for Safety & Change staff attended over 100 community events.

Volunteers

contributed **11,278** hours of service

Lynn Sheinkin Department for Education & Social Change

206 trainings conducted to nearly 4,000 high school and college students.

46 students participated in two SAEDA trainings.

Convened STOP F.E.A.R. Coalition, Criminal Justice and DELTA Workplace Sub-Committee meetings to develop and implement violence prevention programs.

2012 Revenue

\$2,137,508 Government \$84,681 Corporate & Foundations \$720,772 Donations & Fundraising

\$2,942,961 TOTAL

2012 Expenses

\$2,484,504 Program \$595,459 General & Administration \$80,429 Fundraising

\$3,160,392 TOTAL



The Center for Safety & Change has helped me in so many ways with the struggles, learning how to overcome and deal with them in everyday life. The services helped me in the process and to understand what I had faced in an abusive marriage. This place has helped me so much and helped me gain my self-confidence back.

— sexual trauma survivor



Thank You

Thanks to our generous donors and sponsors, the Center for Safety & Change was able to reach many of our goals for 2012.

Thank you also to our **event sponsors**, the **individuals**, **businesses** and **organizations** who supported the Center in 2012 through grants, donations and gifts in-kind – we couldn't have continued our life affirming services without your support.

A special thank you to each chairperson of our special fundraising events in 2012. Without their dedication and commitment to end gender-based violence, we could not have served nearly 300 survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault each month, or developed and implemented strategies that end gender-based violence.

Laura Segall & Elisabeth Voigt, Co-Chairs of the Development Committee
Kimberly Campbell & Cindy McMurtrie, Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner
Lisa Hayes & Deborah Kingsley, Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner Journal
Cynthia Diamond, Debbie Lurie, Diane Sussman & Roberta Zahl, Designer Fashion Sale
Janet Brooks & Skye Spiegel, Fashion Sale Preview
Billie Cronin, Kara Katz & Larry Wolf, Women's Distance Festival 5K
Ronnie Drachman & John J. Manna, Jr., Harvest Auction
Bijal Jani & Richard Rein, Simona and Jerome A. Chazen Business Award Luncheon
Billie Cronin & Cynthia Diamond, Barnes & Noble Gift Wrap
Jill Kaliff, Better Things to Come cookbook

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

- Our Year-End Appeal Chair, actor Sigourney Weaver
- Our rape crisis and direct service hotline counselors and volunteers, whose dedication and enthusiasm provide tremendous support throughout the year.
- The members of our Resource Council, a group of domestic violence and sexual assault survivors who meet monthly to advise the Center and actively participate in the movement to end gender-based violence.
 Members review Center policies, educate legislators, and raise awareness and funds for the Center in our community.
- The Palisades Center Mall, for continuously providing space for our SAEDA trainings.
- Commissioner Sue Sherwood, District Attorney Thomas Zugibe and the Village of Spring Valley for their continued efforts in supporting Center for Safety & Change programs and services.











GOVERNMENT

Federa

Centers for Disease Control - through the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV)
Federal Emergency Management Agency - through the United Way of Rockland Federal Family Violence Prevention Act Office of Violence Against Women - through the Village of Spring Valley US Recovery Act Fund

New York State

Office of Victims Services
Office of Children and Family Services
Division of Criminal Justice Services
Department of Health

State Coalitions

Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV) Division of Criminal Justice Services Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA)

Rockland County

Department of Probation
Department of Social Services
District Attorney's Office
The County of Rockland
The Office of Community Development
Youth Bureau

Towns & Villages

Ramapo Spring Valley

FOUNDATIONS

Avon Foundation
The Chazen Foundation
First Niagara Bank Foundation
Gerald A. Doering Foundation, Inc.
Glickenhaus Foundation, LTD.
The Ostberg Foundation
Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts
Rockland Community Foundation
Rockland Country Club Foundation
Wilbur G. Malcolm Foundation











Pictured, L-R: Row 1: Bijal Jani, Ronnie Drachman, Cynthia McMurtrie; Kara Katz; John Manna; Janet Brooks, Anne Shapiro; Hannah Yablonsky, Alicia Yablonsky, Deborah Kingsley, Elisabeth Voigt; Roselyn Fields, Carolyn Fish









Row 2: Gloria Steinem; Rich Rein, Jill Kaliff; Cynthia Diamond, Debbie Lurie, Diane Sussman, Linda Anopolsky, Rikke Stone; Laura Segall; NY Senator David Carlucci; Susan Scalettar, Billie Cronin

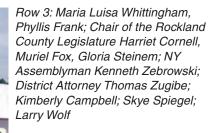












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Rockland Road Runners Association Sister Moon Goods Sisterhood of Congregation Shaarey Israel St. John's Episcopal Church St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church St. Thomas Aguinas College Starfleet International Suffern United Methodist Women Tappan Zee Thrift Shop Temple Beth El Temple Beth Torah The Garden Club of Nyack The Safe House Travelers Community Connections Trinity Episcopal Church United Church of Spring Valley United Methodist Women of New City United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania





Pictures From Our Fundraising Events

Amy Barnett & Dan

Joanna Barth-Werb

Victoria Guarnieri &

Anne Baumann

Karen Beck &

Becker

Joan Beers

Rehrens

Mitchell Fink

Ann Marie Becker

Beverly & Stanley

Roberta Becker

Lucille & Richard

Betsy & Jeffrey

Rochelle & Mike

Nancy Bermon

Joyce Bernstein

Phyllis & Albert

Bernstein

Berson

Cristina Biaggi

Linda Blanco

Cathy S. Boerke

Myra M. Bograd

Kathy & Robert

Sally & Charles

Boraman

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Courtney Boniface

Kathleen Bernstein

Richard Bernstein

Drs. Joan & Daniel

Lori & Fred Bethon

Benjamin

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Berger

Ellen & Irwin Belitsky

Anita & Jonathan Bell

Marjorie & Egon Berg

Kaplan

Lori Barth

















Joanne Goodman &

Bob Thomases

Monica Gordon

Sherry Gordon

Dorothy Goren

Linda M. Gorgorian

Sheralyn Gottlieb

Charlene Graff

Sally Graham

Susie Grama

Rita Grayson

Keith Greaux

Greco

Rena Green

Beth Greenberg

Judy Greenberg

Kay & Richard

Greenblatt

Melody Gregory

S. Greenstein

Amy Griffin

Joyce Griggs

Eileen Grimm

Rachel Grob

lise Grunwald

Rena Grushkin

Tina Guarasci

Joanne Guarino

Junie Guignard

Raphy & Richard

Haimowitz

Pat & Dr. Llovd

Sandra & David Haas

Sabrina & Michael

Norma & Martin Gottlieb

Elinor & Paul Goodstat



Jill & David Kaliff

Kaplan

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Laurie & Walte

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Alice Keller-Alig

Elizabeth & Ed Kallen

Katherine & Mitchell





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Glenn Allvn Mary Alston Pamela Ancowitz Rayla & Bill Anderson Norma Andrews Ann Angarola Maria Annunziata Linda & Martin Anopolsky

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Menil Jan Deegan Venesia Defrank Jill Degan & Dr. Jeffrey Degen

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18th Annual Designer Fashion & Accessory SaleJune 12 & 13 ■ Helen Hayes Performing Arts Studio

26th Annual Women's Distance Festival – 5K

July 13 ■ Rockland Lake State Park

34th Annual Harvest Auction
November 10 ■ New York Country Club

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