

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE

What are women's roles in America?

By Amy Rivera

The United States claims to be one of the freest countries in the world with equality for every one. But is that really the case?

Women in America are still abused by men. The abuse comes in all shapes and forms. Whether it is through the literature, music or the media, there is still women bashing.

Just take a look at the different magazines there are for men that paint women as sex objects that men can do what they want with. Also in those magazines they depict what the perfect woman should be like, making men believe that the only pretty women in the world have blond hair, blue eyes and are a size 0 to 2.

Whenever a woman walks down the
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VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE is a Newsletter of these Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families Programs:

♥ **STEPS to End Family Violence**

♥ Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI)

♥ Stepping Stones to Success

♥ The Children's Therapy Program

♥ Adopt A School Program (R.A.P.P.)

♥ UNITED

♥ **The Incarcerated Mothers Program (IMP)**

♥ The Achievers/Boys & Girls Shinel

♥ GAP (Grandparents as Parents)

NEGATIVE WORDS

WORDS ARE A GUN
IT WILL SHOOT YOU.
WORDS ARE A HURRICANE
IT WILL DESTROY YOU.
WORDS ARE A MONSTER
IT WILL EAT YOU UP.
WORDS ARE A CAR
IT WILL RUN YOU OVER.
WORDS ARE A BLIZZARD
IT WILL FREEZE YOU.
WORDS ARE A PAIN
IT WILL HURT.
WORDS ARE A SPELL
IT WILL DOOM YOU.
WORDS ARE A POISON
IT WILL STRAIGHT UP KILL YOU.
WORDS ARE AN OCEAN
IT WILL WASH AWAY YOUR DREAMS.
IF YOU LET IT. IT WON'T WASH AWAY MINE.
BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN THE "POSITIVE".

BY **ABIGAIL MCMEO**, RAPP PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

WOMEN'S HISTORY ISSUE

In honor of Women's History Month, women in our programs speak out about issues important to them...

1 **WOMEN'S ROLES IN AMERICA**
(excerpt) by Amy Rivera

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by Abigail McMeo

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SPOTLIGHT Women's History Celebrated

Health Awareness *a personal experience*

by Aida Rodriguez

Client of STEPS to End Family Violence

Taking care of your health is very important. Always keep in mind that a strong body develops a strong mind. I know some of us have health issues that we do not want to accept. I, for example, suffer from dysplasia, a deformity of both my hips due to a birth defect.

When the doctor diagnosed me with dysplasia I was in total shock. I refused to accept it. I became depressed and moody. Everything bothered me. I wouldn't take my medication as ordered and my medical issue worsened. I wasn't hurting anyone but myself.

Therefore if you have a health issue I recommend that you do as your doctor orders. When you become rebellious nothing gets accomplished. I decided to accept my situation. Since then I have been feeling better. Not every day is a good day, but overall it is much better.

This also applies to any situation in your life. Accepting and preparing yourself helps you see a situation in a better and clear light. Learning to accept a situation that is out of your control and doing what you can to correct it makes all the difference.

With this in mind your health should be your #1 priority.

I hope I have encouraged you! Thank you.

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Women's Roles in America... Amy Rivera

street men howl and call them like they are animals that will respond. This is also a form of abuse.

Even in school there is evidence of abuse. Keely Blumentritt runs a program in the school called R.A.P.P., which stands for relationship abuse prevention program.

Basically women are treated as second-class citizens around the world, whether people are willing to admit it or not. Women in America may have more freedom than women in other countries, but the fact remains that they are still abused and restricted.

Muslim women wear veils and burkas, covering them from head to foot. Even though American women may not wear them, they do, in a figurative sense, wear emotional burkas.

But, there are some women that have made a name for themselves and have broken through the glass ceiling. Women such as Amelia Earhart, Florence Nightingale, Oprah Winfrey and countless others have made an impact on society and the history of mankind. Some women are appreciated for what they do and how they do things. Even though this is a rarity, it does happen.

Whoever you are, maybe you can realize a way you can be a better person and show respect to all women. Give women the respect they deserve as human beings and as equal partners in life. Women are an invaluable part of life here on earth; there would be no life without women here on earth ❖

Amy Rivera is a senior at Manhattan Center for Science and Math H.S. She has been accepted at New York University and will begin studying physical therapy in the fall. Congratulations Amy!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEETINGS

NEW BEGINNINGS
(SPANISH) WEDNESDAY
5:30-7:00

NEW BEGINNINGS
(ENGLISH) MONDAYS
5:30-7:00

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ANGER
WEDNESDAY
5:30-7:00

SELF-ESTEEM THURSDAYS
3:00-5:30

GRANDS AS PARENTS (GAP) THURSDAYS
(alternating)
9:30-11:00 A.M.

ACHIEVERS MEETINGS SATURDAYS
Meetings begin again in mid-June

UNITED GROUP TUESDAYS
(TEEN MALES) (1:30-3:00)

STEPPING STONES GROUPS

- HOME & WORK GROUP
 - JOB READINESS (WITH COMPUTER TRAINING)
 - SUBSTANCE ABUSE GROUP
- (FOR STEPPING STONES CLIENTS)

UPCOMING EVENTS

❖ SPRING/Mothers Day Celebration:
April 29th, 4-7 p.m.

❖ Children's Group Performance:
April 29th, 4-7 p.m.

❖ Puppet Show:
June 19th (time TBA)

❖ Stepping Stones TANF training
May 10th, 2-5 p.m.

Nancy Downing is the Legal Services Coordinator
for STEPS to End Family Violence.

THE LEGAL CORNER



By Nancy Downing

What is an Order of Protection?

An order of protection is:

- ◇ a document issued by the court
- ◇ helps protect a person from abuse, serious threats or harassment

In the order of protection, the judge:

- ◇ orders the batterer not to injure, threaten or harass the person who obtained the order.
- ◇ may place limits on the batterers behavior (i.e. no phone calls, stay away from home or school)

How do I get an Order of Protection?

An order of protection can be obtained from:

- ◇ Criminal court
- ◇ Civil court – Family court (or Supreme Court under certain circumstances)
- ◇ You may be able to go to Family Court or Criminal Court or both at the same time.

An order of protection is available in Criminal Court:

- ◇ to all victims of domestic violence, whether or not they are related to the abuser
- ◇ only AFTER criminal charges are filed.
- ◇ the district attorney will handle the case.

An order of protection is available in Family Court:

- ◇ IF the person seeking the order and her abuser:
 - are legally married
 - are divorced
 - are related by blood, marriage or adoption
 - or have a child in common
- ◇ AND IF a family offence occurred (i.e. disorderly conduct, harassment, aggravated harassment, menacing, reckless endangerment, assault, attempted assault, stalking)
- ◇ Generally the person seeking the order of protection files a “petition” (states the legal claim, basic facts, and asks the court for the order of protection) with the petition clerk.

Next issue: more on obtaining an order of protection in Family Court



THANK YOU to all our supporters who believe in the work of our programs and have helped us in achieving our goals.

Funder Highlight

We'd like to give a special thank you to the Lincoln Fund. The Lincoln Fund has been supporting the Incarcerated Mothers Program and STEPS to End Family Violence since 1996.

With the support of the Lincoln Fund IMP has been able to hire a full time staff person to be the director for the Saturday teen programs. Having a full time director has made a big difference for the teens we work with, and the program has been able to do more activities with more teens.

The Lincoln Fund also supports the STEPS to End Family Violence Children's Therapy Program. The Children's Therapy Program works with children who have witnessed violence in the home to alleviate trauma and PTSD.

Thank you Lincoln Fund! Your help is needed and appreciated.

Phenomenal Women Honored

at

WOMEN'S HISTORY CELEBRATION

IMP, STEPS to End Family Violence and Stepping Stones to Success celebrated Women's History Month in March. Part of our celebration was a ceremony to honor some very strong and dedicated women who have taken part in our programs.



Ms. Pricilla Green accepts her Phenomenal Woman Award from Laura Fernandez and Sharwlene Nickleson.

Other women recognized with the Phenomenal Woman Award are Diane Hunter, Linda Ng, Angelica Winston and Violeta Garcia ❖

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE CONTRIBUTORS

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