

Published By:
Steps to End Family Violence
A Family Program of Edwin Gould Services for Children
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TAKING STEPS

DECEMBER 1999

FROM OUR DIRECTOR'S DESK

After years of searching, many disappointments, significant delays, problems with everything possible, we have achieved the goal of the past seven years. **We moved our offices!** From very crowded and totally inadequate office space, our programs now have rooms for group counseling, small rooms for individual counseling sessions, and cubicles for each staff member that are light and airy. Instead of sharing desks, we can now share lunch together in one of the group rooms. All staff, who have survived the years of being at the former space, now have big smiles as we walk around our beautiful new offices.

One of our staff, Sonia Olmos, a Court Advocate and Counselor with Steps to End Family Violence Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Program, wanted our new space to be beautiful as well as adequate and appropriate for staff and clients. She and her family spent many hours decorating, putting up framed pictures and adding color to our space.

With our beautiful new space, we needed to celebrate. On Monday October 4, 1999 we celebrated well with an Open House for over 100 colleagues and friends in attendance. Staff obtained donations of food and flowers. Some of our staff cooked delicious food. Several clients spoke of their experiences with our programs and we honored the architect of our great space.

Joseph Druffel, our architect, had spent many hours evaluating many possibilities for new space. Over the years he also completed drawings for several possible offices. When we found our current home at 1968 Second Avenue, he worked very hard to make our the dream offices a reality. He listened and then designed and worked with us as each problem occurred so that all would be resolved. While he saw the project almost totally completed, he never saw us in our offices, happy with what he had accomplished. Joe had become ill and died this past summer. We were pleased to honor him at our Open House through the presence of his brother and sister. In our office we also have a beautiful plaque which helps us to remember him always.

At this Holiday time, all of us at STEPS wish each of you a blessed holiday season. Happy New Year, and new century! Please help us continue our work with battered women, children and teens by contributing to our program. An envelope is enclosed for your end of this year's contribution.

Sr. Mary Nerney, CND

Put your good intentions to work. Your tax-deductible contribution enables us to continue our efforts to end family violence

A financial contribution to our program
 Volunteer as a baby-sitter for our Children's Therapy Program or bring our children to therapy (days, evenings)
 Recreational activities for our children, teens, families Example: trips, cultural activities, plays, museums, etc.
 Internet access for a month – or more
 Gifts for the mothers in jail/prison
 Videos and CD ROM for children's and teen activities
 Provide for a short-term van rental for client's excursions
 Computer games for the Children's Therapy Program
 Help us write grant proposals and obtain contacts at Foundations and Corporations
 Provide refreshments and supplies for one or more of the five weekly groups

Kindly let us know what your contribution is in the envelope provided.



WE'VE MOVED

Comments From Our Staff

Clients have said that they like this space better. They feel that they are able to do the hard inner healing work in our beautiful self-esteem building offices. Privacy and light help our Clients feel that they can speak more freely with workers because no one is sitting right outside the door like in our old space.

Nanci Fields, Counselor

My clients are teens and some of their parents come in with them. They love the space. The teen men's group has expanded. Some come early and it seems they don't want to leave.

Taunya Patteron-Rivera, Teen Abuse Prevention Program Coordinator

I had seen plans for a move for the past four years – This was real! The move allowed me to release the stress of being in the old cramped space.

Simon Talton, Domestic Violence Substance Abuse Counselor

The space in general is beautiful. There is so much room and we can actually enjoy the sun, which we couldn't before because we didn't even have windows.

Nicole Avery, Court Advocate/Counselor

The move to me means Progress, The best part of the move for me, was to see the look of excitement on my co-workers, clients and visitors when they see our new space.

Mayra Sarita, Admin Assistant



**Our New Address:
 STEPS TO END FAMILY VIOLENCE
 1968 Second Avenue
 New York New York 10029
 212-410-4200
 212-410-4345**

HELP

1. **New York City Domestic Violence Hotline**
1-800-621-HOPE
2. **Domestic Violence Hotline NEW YORK**
Spanish: 1-800-942-6908
English: 1-800-942-6906'
NATIONAL 1-800-333-SAFE
3. **SAKHI (South Asian)**
(212) 714-9153
4. **Violence Intervention Spanish**
212-360-5090
5. **Asian Women Center**
212-753-5230
6. **Gay & Lesbian Anti-violence Program**
212-807-6761



NEWS

Over 3,000 men, women and children (plus a few dogs) came together to stand as one against domestic violence and to show their support for survivors of domestic violence on Sunday October 24, 1999

DV WALK 2000 PROMISES TO BE AN EVEN BIGGER SUCCESS!



TEEN SAVER

The vicious cycle of power and control develops in one's teen years. Abusers learn how to play control games and assert power to get things they want under the pretext of love. Victims learn how to give in and take orders to be loved. And while we may not see drastic physical violence we see a pattern developing. We see fearful relationships form that prevent our teens from leading happy lives.

Taunya Patterson –Rivera, Coordinator for the Teen Abuse Program shares with us her rewarding experience leading the teen Steps program

Q. How would you describe the Teen Abuse Prevention Program (TAPP)?

A. TAPP is an on-going evolving program that is a mix of classroom curriculum on teen relationship abuse, domestic violence and child abuse. We divide the students – boys and girls – so that their individual issues can be addressed. The curriculum sometimes includes a video: "Speaking UP and Getting Out" which was developed by TAPP, and companion video with teen men: "Teen Men Talkin." The program includes presentations for teachers and for adults working with teens and is offered within school and community programs. Weekly support groups for teen women are offered in several schools and at STEPS.

Q. What is being done about male batterers?

A. We have a special teen male batterer's program called UNITED (Using Non-violence in Teen Educated Decisions). This program provides safety and counseling for the teen men. This group of teen men is learning how to be accountable for their behavior. This is a mandatory 26-week program of groups and individual sessions.

Q. Is it true that your teen program got recognition from the Mayor and you now have a grant?

A. Our teen abuse program has been chosen by the Mayor's office to be part of a pilot project in the Bronx, called: Adopt A School. STEPS has "adopted" Stevenson High School. We provide teen abuse counseling, crisis intervention and education at Stevenson High School through a full time school Coordinator. Besides working with the students, the coordinator also provides education for the faculty and the parents.

Q. How do you bring about change?

A. The main objective of all our programs is to educate our teens and create consciousness and awareness for the girls, it's all about building their self-esteem and confidence and for men its an effort to deter abusive behavior and to promote healthy relationships. Our bottom line is, we want to promote healthy, happy, rewarding lives.

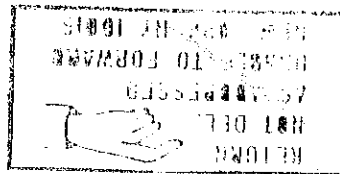
Q. What do you see as challenges ahead?

A. The number of teens reported in abusive relationships has escalated from one out of ten teens to three out of ten teens being abused in recent years. With the increase, we feel the need to expand the program and reach out to more teens. For that, we need more financial aid and grants to be able to reach to as many teens as possible.

Q. What is a message you would like to send out to our teens?

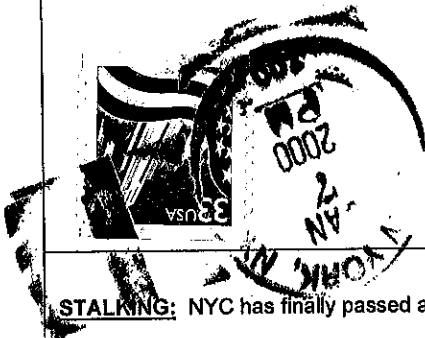
A. Never ever do anything against your will. Always trust your instincts. Verbalize to your parents, peers, and counselors if you feel your being abused. Always respect yourself and you will get respect in return.

Taunya Patterson-Rivera Coordinator of the Teen Abuse Program received an award from the Mayor's Commission to Combat Domestic Violence for her work with the Mayor's Office on the Adopt- A School Project



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STALKING: NYC has finally passed a stalking law, which was effective December 1, 1999. The legislature agreed that criminal stalking behavior, including threatening, violent or other criminal conduct has become more prevalent in New York State in recent years. The unfortunate reality is that stalking victims have been intolerably forced to live in fear of their stalkers. Stalkers, who repeatedly follow, phone, write, confront, threaten or otherwise unacceptably intrude upon their victims, often inflict immeasurable emotional and physical harm upon them. Current law did not adequately recognize the damage to individual safety caused by these offenders. The new law provides clear recognition of the dangerousness of stalking. Crime of stalking. This law will protect victims by providing real and effective sanctions for stalking conduct even at its earliest stages. It will also provide increased penalties for repeat offenders, for those offenders who stalk children, for those offenders who possess weapons when stalking, and for those offenders who commit stalking in violation of an order of protection.

FACT Women in Prison...

- Women continue to be the fastest growing population in prisons and jails. The number of women in prison has increased more than tenfold since 1980
- The majority of women in prison for violent offenses are accused of crimes that involve a spouse, relative, or acquaintance. Many of these women were defending themselves against an abusive partner; they are not a threat to community safety
- More than 40% of women prisoners were physically or sexually abused prior to incarceration

- Women In Prison Project correctional Association