



NATIONAL CENTER on Domestic and Sexual Violence

training • consulting • advocacy

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NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Debby Tucker

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Dear Friends:

This holiday season finds the National Center busy and ready for new opportunities in 2006! Highlights of our current work are outlined below. We're waiting to hear about several new possibilities in the coming year, so keep your fingers crossed!



We are having such fun working with the **Avon Foundation** developing an exciting new CD-ROM. It is intended to educate people about domestic violence so they feel comfortable speaking to someone who they suspect is a victim. We're enthusiastic that the CD will be finished soon so it can start making a difference in people's lives! We're working closely with **Denise Yap** of the **Avon Foundation** and **Marinda McRoy** of **VideoPlus** on this project.



Our *Military/Civilian Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence Demonstration Project* with the Army's Fort Campbell in KY, Christian County, KY and Montgomery County, TN, is in the final stages. Mapping teams exploring offender accountability; the protective order application process and violations; misdemeanor criminal cases, disposition and monitoring; and responses to victims have been working throughout the fall. I am working with Local Coordinators, **Louie Sumner**, **Fort Campbell Family Advocacy Program** Director, **Helen Kinton** of **Sanctuary** in Hopkinsville, KY, and **Patricia Mock** of the **Legal Aid Society** in Clarksville, TN, to publish the findings and proposed implementation strategies. **Kathy Skaggs, Esq.**, of Campbellsville, KY, is editing the final report of the project. The **Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP)** of Minneapolis, MN, is funded by the **Office on Violence Against Women** of the **U.S. Department of Justice** and the **U.S. Department of Defense** to manage this project. BWJP's **Connie Sponsler Garcia** serves as the **Site Coordinator for the sister demonstration project with the Navy's two installations Mayport and JAX** in coordinating with the combined City/County government of Jacksonville, FL. BWJP contracts with the National Center to facilitate this project and I serve as Site Coordinator at Fort Campbell. Connie and I work together to see what we are learning and how to share our experiences with others who seek to improve military/civilian coordination.



Altria Group, Inc., renewed our grant for our award-winning website, www.ncdsv.org, for FY 2006. We are deeply grateful for their generosity and commitment. With their support our site is up-to-

date, dynamic and **Christina Walsh**, Communications Director, continues to receive unsolicited compliments about the site providing information people need. Further, with Altria funding we've seen a 935% increase in visits to the site. That translates to an average of 308,000 visits per month, however, there were 530,796 visits in October 2005 – an all time high! Christina manages the site to keep it current and make sure it meets people's needs and **Randy Hines** continues as our Web Site Consultant, ensuring folks can find what they need and readily use it. *Our heartfelt thanks to Altria, especially Diane Eidman, John Barnes and Shawna Aarons.*

 Last week, I attended the opening of **Centro de Justicia Familiar** (Family Justice Center) in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico. **Mexican President Vicente Fox** dedicated the Centro, the first Family Justice Center in Latin America, giving a strong speech that violence against women and children will not end until the rights of women are respected throughout the nation. Our long-time friend, **Aixa Alvarado**, who has more than 15 years of experience providing direct services to victims of domestic violence and working with Mexico's national domestic violence network to establish services in various states and local communities advocated for the new Centro. In 2004, Aixa graduated from law school and started working for **Nuevo León Procuraduría General de Justicia Lic. Luis Carlos Treviño Berchermann** (state Attorney General). Over the holidays last year, she visited **Patricia Castillo**, Executive Director of the **P.E.A.C.E. Initiative** in San Antonio and also a member of the **San Antonio Family Justice Center**. Aixa learned from Patricia about the Family Justice Center concept and returned home and secured the support of Procurador Treviño. In June 2005, Aixa and the **Sub Procurador Luis David Ortiz** (Deputy Attorney General) visited the **San Diego Family Justice Center** to learn from **Casey Gwinn, Gael Strack** and others, and in August 2005 attended the opening of the San Antonio Family Justice Center. Together with the **Gobierno del Estado de Nuevo León Lic. José Natividad González Parás** (Governor) and the Procurador, Aixa and Luis moved forward to establish the Centro in Monterrey. It is funded entirely by the state of Nuevo León. The Centro is beautiful and huge – any Family Justice Center in the U.S. would gladly have this wonderful facility. The Centro's most impressive elements are the separate entrances for victims and helping professionals through one side of the building and another entrance on the opposite side and on a different street for offenders, their attorneys, law enforcement and prosecutors. Beneath the victim services side of the building is a shelter and on the offender accountability side a jail. The Centro will have 100 staff representatives from public and private agencies such as law enforcement, legal services, prosecutors, psychologists, day care, counselors, medical services and social workers. Aixa will be the Centro's Director. It was an honor to be a special guest for the opening, along with Patricia. *Congratulations to Aixa, Luis, the Procurador, the Gobierno and all who've worked so hard so quickly to establish the new Centro.*

 Each New Year always brings new opportunities and new friends to the National Center and this year is no exception. We've just embarked on a consulting relationship with **Mladen Djankovich** and his newly launched **pepperface.com**. The National Center is working with **pepperface.com** to refine and expand the information on self-defense packaged with pepper spray. The focus of these materials will be that pepper spray is a tool and that there are many tactics for someone to improve their capacity to protect themselves, including awareness and prevention emphasized on the website. It's a pleasure to work with Mladen and to be challenged and challenging!



The National Center's *Trial Run: Expert Witnesses in Domestic Violence Cases* training, October 6-7, 2005 in Austin, TX, was a tremendous success, according to participant evaluations. **Vickie Smith**, National Center consultant, **Toby Myers, EdD, LCSW, LPC, CGP**, National Center Vice-Chair, and **Sarah M. Buel, JD**, National Center co-founder and Board Member Emeritus, created this informative and experiential training. A special thanks to all the speakers and our co-sponsors, **The University of Texas at Austin School of Law, The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, SafePlace of Austin** and the **Travis County Task Force on Domestic and Sexual Violence**.

I presented two workshops and facilitated a panel discussion at the **National College of District Attorney's 15th Annual National Conference on Domestic Violence** in Reno, NV, October 22-27, 2005. I was honored to be invited back as a presenter by **Candace Mosley**, NCDA's Training Director and a National Center Board member.



We are continuing to provide technical assistance with the expertise of our staff, consultants and through our new relationship with **The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work, Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**. Our comprehensive library collection is now housed at the Institute. The National Center's former librarian, **Nancy Flanakin, MLIS**, is working at the Institute managing the collection and helping to provide technical assistance.



Vickie Smith and **Shermakaye Bass**, National Center consultants, are using the extensive training materials the National Center developed over the last seven years and reorganizing and updating it to design future trainings.



Now is the perfect time to make a gift to the National Center. You can honor someone you know who has a passion to end violence against women or strengthen your own commitment in 2006 to eliminate domestic and sexual violence. Visit http://www.ncdsv.org/ncd_hireus.html to download a donation form to make your tax-deductible gift. ***Thank you for your generosity and support.***



Please update your mailing list with the National Center's new mailing address: 4612 Shoal Creek Blvd., Austin, Texas 78756. You can continue to reach us at 512.407.9020 or by e-mail at dtucker@ncdsv.org and cwalsh@ncdsv.org.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and consultants, our best wishes are with you this holiday season and throughout the New Year!