



Family Violence Project 2017 Annual Report

Family Violence Project

1st Annual Benefit and Recognition Night

The 1st Annual Benefit and Recognition Night was a huge success. The seventy two people in attendance helped make the event special as we recognized those who have supported our mission.

Our award for Business of the year was Laflin and Wolfington Realty

Our individual donor of the year was Denise Dernorsek

Our volunteer of the year was Ken Bell.

A special thank you to these wonderful community members.



Thank you also to the sponsors who helped to make this event possible.

Longfellow's Greenhouses, Manchester



Kennebec Savings Bank



Maine General Health



Inland Hospital



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FVP Program Updates

Helpline and Volunteer Program

by Jaime Mooney

FVP held two offerings of our 36-hour Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention training for new staff and volunteers during the fiscal year. Through these offerings we were able to train 2 new staff, 1 MSW foundation year student and 14 new advocacy volunteers. Here are just a few comments from some of the participants: "This training did prepare me to take calls and feel confident in doing so." "It gave me a better vocabulary and I know how to react in specific situations. I also am now more aware of resources and can effectively give recommendations to people." "I am really grateful to be learning such important information and to be doing such meaningful work!" "Big thanks for a chance to help others!"

While these trainings were happening, work was being done (in conjunction with other Domestic Violence Resource Centers (DVRCs) around the state with the leadership of Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) to create an updated curriculum for new staff and volunteers. This work will result in a lengthier but more in depth training process for all new advocacy staff, whether paid or unpaid.

Our 24-hour Helpline has remained busy throughout the year. The After-Hours helpline during this time was covered by paid staff with the help of approximately 25 volunteer advocates. We also enjoyed the assistance of 2 volunteer advocates who helped co-facilitate weekly support groups and utilized several volunteers who assisted with clerical services, childcare, and other needs as they arose.

Prevention Education and Community Awareness

by Beth Crowe

The fiscal year began with Domestic Violence Awareness month. The whole staff pitched in to make it a success. The educator for Southern Kennebec County and the Education Director were able to accommodate most of the requests from the Northern Kennebec and Somerset school districts since we had not yet hired a replacement. Our Prevention Educator continued to maintain relationships with 30 schools in Southern Kennebec County. Presentations ranged from preschool through high school, with some additional training for school staff, guardians ad litem, Head Start staff and FVP Crisis Intervention training. There were also several special opportunities: Healthy Decisions Days at Maranacook Middle and High Schools; Cony Calloway Coffeehouse; and United Way Day of Caring at Monmouth Academy.

This year we completed work with student focus groups at Cony High School. We then conducted both staff and This year we completed work with student focus groups at student workshops to deliver the collected information, and bring

awareness to the need for "upstanders" to promote safety and respect for students. This program has since been named SERIOUS: Safety, Equality, Respect In Our Schools..

In spring of 2017, a relationship was also formed with the LGBTQ Drop-In Group at the Lithgow Library. The Prevention Educator attends the sessions at least once a month, providing valuable resources and information to the students, as well as acting as an ally and a trusted adult.

The video: We See You, was completed and is being distributed. This is an awareness piece about domestic abuse within the LGBTQIA+ community.

The WHISPER group (When Home Is Stressful, Prevention Education Response) was formed for self-identified teens who are dealing with issues like domestic abuse, addiction, divorce, PTSD, and depression. This program is being piloted at Maranacook HS, and is soon to be piloted at Maranacook MS as well.

In July the Education Director moved over to Menswork full-time and a new Director was hired. In September a hiring Committee was convened for a new Community Awareness & Prevention Educator and a Northern Kennebec & Somerset Prevention Educator. We are looking forward to successful initiative and continued partnerships in the coming year.

MENSWORK

by Jon Heath

Menswork has grown during the 2017 fiscal year in part due to the passing of LD 814 for which Jon Heath, Menswork Certified Batterer Intervention Program (CBIP) director testified in support of the bill. *LD 814 reads "An Act Regarding Court Orders for Completion of Batterers' Intervention Program in Domestic Violence Cases," sponsored by Senator Kimberly Rosen.* But long before LD 814, our two counties historically held one of the highest referral rates for CBIP in Maine due to the strength of the coordinated community response and the commitment of our Judges, District Attorney's office, Probation and DHHS.

This bill is explicit in describing Certified Batterer Intervention in Maine as *"the most appropriate and effective community intervention in cases involving domestic violence."* During 2017 we increased from 8 to 10 classes across Kennebec and Somerset counties and while enrollment fluctuates, at one point we approached 150 participants. Menswork classes are currently held in Augusta, Waterville and Skowhegan, and we use the Duluth Curriculum.

Advocacy—Shelter—Housing

By Melody Fitch

Though the number of individuals served each fiscal year remains relatively stable, advocates provided more services and for a longer duration, to victims and concerned others. Remarkably, almost half of all individual advocacy activities are those in which abuse victims receive supports as they navigate civil proceedings, such as protection from abuse and family matters.

Housing Navigators worked with 68 individuals over the year through the Emergency Shelter and Housing Assistance Program (ESHAP), providing supports; such as housing assistance, seeking safe and affordable rentals, bridging with landlords, and assisting victims and their children in remaining stably housed, for up to one year.

Length of stays in shelter continues to decrease overall, and residents are able to move into permanent housing with supports more quickly. This is somewhat dependent upon the existence of Section 8 vouchers and other rental assistance. In addition, some landlords are not willing or able to bring their rental properties up to Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards for safe living, thereby reducing the number of safe and affordable rental properties for victims of domestic abuse and violence.

Supportive Housing (7) units were occupied in Augusta and Waterville with units filling relatively quickly when residents move on from the program.

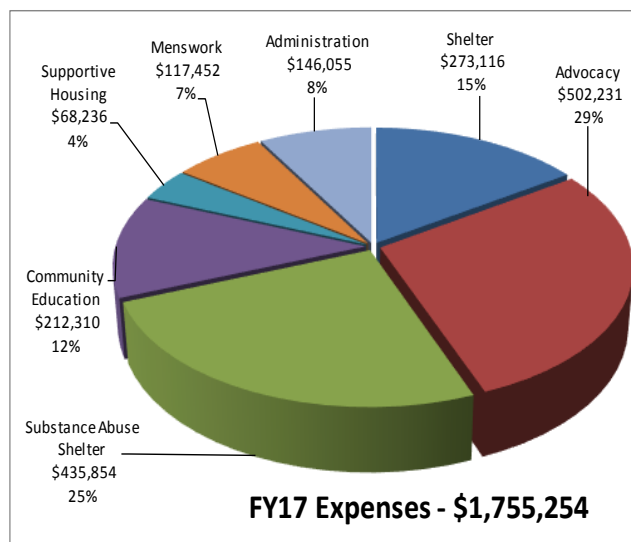
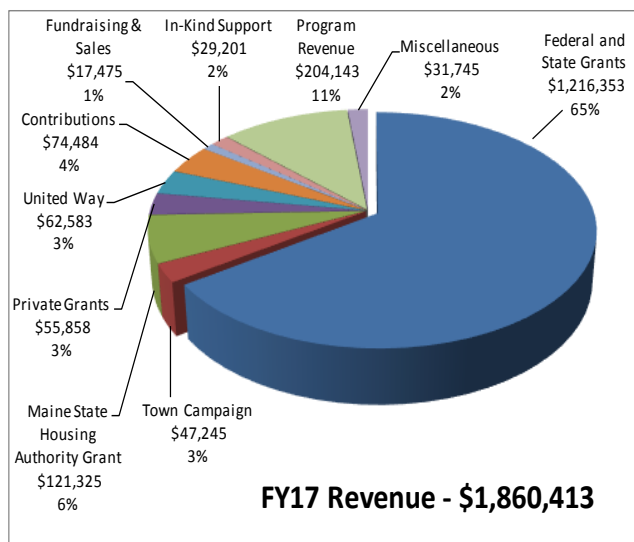
All advocacy programs emphasize delivering survivor-centered supports toward safety, empowerment, stability, permanency, and self-sufficiency.

FVP Year in Numbers

• Total number of unduplicated persons served (Female = 1734, Male = 183, Transgender = 3 Unidentified = 34)	1954
• Persons receiving individual support and advocacy	1553
• Persons receiving court advocacy	668
• Persons participating in support groups	102
• Persons accessing emergency shelter	113
• Number of calls to the helpline/offices	6667
• Number of face to face contacts	8418
• Number of presentations in schools	170
• Number of students at school-based presentations	2743
• Number of presentations in the community	168
• Number of volunteers	31
• Number of volunteer hours	1329

*It takes a community
to end
domestic violence*

Family Violence Project Revenue and Expenses For fiscal year ending September 30, 2017



Donations to Family Violence are very much appreciated. It is now easy to make your donation on our secure web site:

<https://www.familyviolenceproject.org/how-you-can-help/>

You may make a single or a monthly giving donation. Thank you for your support.

As of May 1, 2018, Family Violence Project will be going paperless with Newsletters and event information. Please join our email list in order to receive our important information:

<https://www.familyviolenceproject.org/category/newsletters-reports/>

To contact Family Violence Project:

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Family Violence Project Maine

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Augusta Administrative Office	207-623-8637
Waterville Outreach Office	207-877-0835
Skowhegan Outreach Office	207-474-8860
Menswork Program	207-620-8494

Family Violence Project is supported through funding from US Office on Violence Against Women, Maine DHHS, United Ways of Kennebec and Mid-Maine, Maine State Housing Authority, municipalities, private grants, special fundraising events and donations.

Family Violence Project does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, age, ancestry or national origin, gender identity or expression, pregnancy or any other characteristic protected by law.

Family Violence Project was incorporated in 1978 as an independent, nonprofit organization. With offices in Augusta, Waterville and Skowhegan, the Project serves the communities of Kennebec and Somerset Counties, providing a 24 hour helpline, emergency shelter, individual and court advocacy, support groups, community and school-based education and a certified batterer intervention program.

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