

# FVP VOICE

Spring 2018



## Working to End Domestic Violence, Carrying On

Forty years ago a small group of people in Kennebec Valley came together to talk about domestic violence at a time when activists across the country had begun using their voices to shine a light on the abuse of women and the impact of violence on individuals, families, communities and on our very social fabric. The battered women's movement started small, and from the heart. Initiatives grew forth from discussions at kitchen tables, unconditional support, and gritty determination, fomenting energies that would become today's fully funded comprehensive advocacy services organizations. Much has changed in four decades; progressive public policy initiatives have shaped institutional response and our communities have rallied in support of survivors and to hold perpetrators of violence accountable. Advocates continue to move a weighty mission forward, to end domestic violence. We envision communities in which violence is unacceptable and all people treat each other with respect. Our voices are many and our stories diverse. We are survivors of abuse and violence, children of a culture that has perpetuated toxic masculinity. We are change-makers and passionate visionaries. We are community members who care enough to step inside this complex social issue, to better understand it, see it, and change it. Throughout 2018, Family Violence Project will

recognize the contributions of our communities and we will honor survivors. We are a hard working group of committed advocates: Board, Staff, and Volunteers. We shall celebrate, yes; because without joy and connection, there will never be change. Ours is humble work, and earnest; and we lean into it for a journey much longer than we knew in our earlier years. We hope you will follow our postings, our newsletter, and our activities throughout the year. We hope you will join with us and support our efforts, in whatever way makes most sense for you.

Buy your tickets now for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Benefit and Recognition Night, and bring along a friend! This is such an easy and pleasant way to support our work and show survivors that you care.

And one more really cool thing: we're going greener! Please read on for more information about the e-newsletter and how you can help us to keep you on our list.

I thank you for all you do, knowing it is greater even than we can see. Blessings for all that represents comfort and safety, for every one of us, everywhere.

By Melody Fitch, Executive Director



*Take in the vibrant colors, such visual delights.*

*Enjoy satisfying sips, and delish tasty bites.*

*Relax into magical notes, and smiles of folks*

*that you know.*

*FVP hosts the party. You bring the glow!*



We're excited about our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Benefit and Recognition Night – Please plan to join us on Wednesday, June 13, from 6:00-8:00pm! The folks at Longfellow's Greenhouses create such a lovely setting, amongst thousands of blossoms in the gathering areas, and our partners at White Flour Catering, Cushnoc Brewing, Tree Spirits, Rene Roy Photography, and Penny Amundsen, Harpist bring a sweet and mellow ambience.

Please see page 6 for more information and how to purchase tickets. All proceeds will support programs that directly serve victims of domestic abuse. Thanks for your support!

# Looking Back through 40 years



*Jacqui Clark, one of the founding mothers, in her postage stamp sized*

**'We each worked to create the shelter for our own reasons.'**

**Some reasons were political, some personal. I think I am still learning about my reasons. I think we needed to see a revolution in the way women could live their lives. I think we each needed to have our lives changed by being a part of so many people in transition."**

**Jacqui Clark 1988  
10th Anniversary Edition of the FVP Voice**

**10 Years**



**In its first 20 years, the Family Violence Project has offered hope and a better life to thousands of victims and has changed community knowledge and attitudes about domestic violence. I am proud to be a part of the Project as we look ahead to our next twenty years. My fervent hope is that in this next twenty years we will achieve our shared dream of a community free of domestic violence.**

**Linda Wilcox 1998**

**20 years**

## **IT TAKES A COMMUNITY**



For awhile, it looked like the Family Violence Project's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year might prove to be the last one for the provision of services to victims of domestic violence, their families, and the communities of Kennebec and Somerset counties.

In early March, we received word that the Governor's supplemental budget eliminated funding for all state-funded domestic violence and sexual assault services in Maine, including direct service to victims, school-based prevention, and community outreach education, to begin on July 1, 2008.

But then, these communities came together to turn the tide. A new group MaineCanDoBetter, was formed; and over a thousand people rallied at the State House on March 12.

When it was all over, the legislative Appropriations and Health and Human Services Committees voted to restore our funds, and convinced their colleagues in the whole legislative body to do the same. Other programs were not as lucky, but funding for Family Violence Project and our sister domestic violence programs and sexual assault programs withstood the cuts that were made to close the state budget gap, and were fully restored.

**Deborah Shepherd 2008**

**30 years**



Moving forward, we are committed in our mission to end domestic abuse in Kennebec and Somerset counties. We join with all who seek peace and work for justice. From the margins to the center, we bring survivors and our community closer to safety and peace.

**Melody Fitch 2018**

**40 years**

# DV Day at the Statehouse

By Michelle LeClair

On February 20, 2018, the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) hosted Domestic Violence Day at the State House. This is an annual event to connect with legislators and the public regarding the work of domestic violence resource centers.

This year's theme was Through Our Doors. Survivors of abuse connect with our organizations through many doors, and all of those doors are interconnected. For instance, "someone may call looking for shelter, but through that door they find also legal advocacy, a support group, and a connection with specialized system advocacy to help with a problematic police response," according to Regina Rooney, Education and Communications Director, MCEDV.

At FVP, when someone is in need of safe housing, they may first come through the doors of one of our shelters. There, they receive support with housing, and access to many other resources; such as, medical,

transportation, and childcare. At the event, we highlighted Somerset Shelter and the collaboration with Kennebec Behavioral Health to support survivors who want to be in recovery from substances.

FVP recently produced a film, "We See You", which was also on display at our booth. This film was created to heighten awareness about domestic violence in the LGBTQIA+ population. This group is often overlooked and we want everyone to know that we are here for you, we care about you, and we see you.

Representing Family Violence Project were Community Educators Nancy Provost, Shawna Lund, and Michelle LeClair as well as Somerset's DV Investigator and the Somerset DV Task Force Chair Mike Pike. We had a great time speaking to legislators and connecting with staff of other DV Resource Centers.



From Left to Right: Mike Pike, Somerset DV Investigator and chair of the Somerset DV Task Force, Michelle LeClair, Shawna Lund and Nancy Provost

Our information table



## Volunteer Spotlight

By Jaime Mooney, Director of Volunteer and Helpline Programs



My name is Nicole Lord and I'm a full-time college student pursuing my Master's in Social Work at the University of Southern Maine. I've been conducting my field placement at Family Violence Project since September 2017 and couldn't be happier with the agency I chose!

I support FVP because I've been fortunate to see firsthand, the impact their services have had on individuals in the community.

I have been volunteering since I was a child and although my work with FVP began as an educational requirement, I will be continuing my journey with the agency through volunteering. Making a difference, no matter how big or small, is something I could never give up.

I live in Western Maine and was unaware of the resources that domestic violence resource centers can provide to families. I consider the 24-hour helpline one of the agency's most critically important resources. No matter the hour or day of the week, there is always someone on the other end of the phone. While completing hours for my degree, I have also seen the positive impact court advocates have on those seeking protection orders. These are reasons I enjoy volunteering.

Thinking about what is needed in terms of addressing domestic violence would include the notion of accountability. I feel that we are living in a society that likes to place blame in areas where it is not deserved and too often, that blame lands on the victim. Once accountability can be upheld, I believe that the state of Maine will be working in a positive direction in efforts to decrease the number of domestic violence incidences.

## Write a love letter to yourself



During a support group in the Waterville office, our outreach advocate Karen, encouraged the participants in a project based on the following paragraph.

“ Ask yourself what you love about you, as if you were writing a love letter to someone else. But in this case the subject is you. Dealing with our feelings about our lives, reflecting on how we truly feel about ourselves, and encouraging ourselves to be kinder and more compassionate can lead to healing, happiness and even better health.”

[www.mnn.com/lifestyle/responsible-living/blogs/how-and-why-to-write-a-love-letter-to-yourself](http://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/responsible-living/blogs/how-and-why-to-write-a-love-letter-to-yourself)

*Please Save the Date*

*Family Violence Project  
celebrates its 40 years of service*

*Do plan to join us*

*September 24, 2018*

*5:00pm to 7pm at the beautiful and historic*

*Viles Mansion in Augusta*

*Event information to follow on our website*

*[www.familyviolenceproject.org](http://www.familyviolenceproject.org)*

*Please Join Family Violence Project 's  
2nd Annual Benefit and Recognition Night*

*June 13, 2018 6:00 -8:00 PM*

*Longfellow's Greenhouses, Manchester*

*Help us recognize those in our community who provide  
outstanding support to our mission.*



*Music by Penny Amundsen—Harpist*



*Refreshments by White Flower Catering*

*Tree Spirits Wine and Cushnoc Brewing Co.*



*Photography by Rene Roy*



*To purchase your ticket*

- 1. Call Liz at 620-9045 or*
- 2. Go to our "Calendar of Events" page of our website  
[www.familyviolenceproject.org](http://www.familyviolenceproject.org)*

*Tickets are \$50.00 each*





## HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS.....

This edition of FVP Voice is the last mass paper mailing of our quarterly newsletter. Paper versions will be available by request, but we are hoping you will help us to keep our costs down and our planet healthier by signing up for the electronic version. Here's how:

Visit our website at [familyviolenceproject.org](http://familyviolenceproject.org) and complete the short form. If you just prefer paper, please email us at [fvp@familyviolenceproject.org](mailto:fvp@familyviolenceproject.org). We want to make sure you receive our information and notices of upcoming events!

And About our Social Media platforms... we are growing our capacity to connect with all of you!

### You can find us at:



Family Violence Project Maine



@FVP40



Instagram

Family Violence Project

We so appreciate your financial support, that we have expanded your options to **make a donation:**

### You May:

**Put it in the Mail:** Family Violence Project

P O Box 304

Augusta, Maine 04332-0304

**Or visit the FVP website** at [www.familyviolenceproject.org/how-you-can-help/](http://www.familyviolenceproject.org/how-you-can-help/) where you are able to:

#### **Make a Single Donation**

**Become a Monthly Supporter** – Help us launch our new and super simple way to make a monthly contribution, through a recurring automatic deduction from your account, which will support our efforts over time.

**Purchase event tickets:** You may purchase our event tickets on our website as well.

We accept Credit, Debit, and ACH (check) payments

## Shelter Wish List

Please consider donating to our shelters:

*Toiletries:* full-size shampoo, full-size conditioner, shower gel, liquid hand soap, razors, baby body wash, baby shampoo, baby lotion

*Household cleaning supplies:* All purpose cleaner, dish soap, bleach, garbage bags, laundry pods, dryer sheets, kitchen sponges

*Store cards* such as Hannaford, Shaws, Walmart and Circle K

## FVP Year in Numbers FY17

• Total number of unduplicated persons served (Female = 1734, Male = 183, Transgender = 3 Not specified= 34)	<b>1954</b>
• Persons receiving individual support and advocacy	<b>1553</b>
• Persons receiving court advocacy	<b>668</b>
• Persons participating in support groups	<b>102</b>
• Persons accessing emergency shelter	<b>113</b>
• Number of calls to the helpline/offices	<b>6667</b>
• Number of face to face contacts	<b>8418</b>
• Number of presentations in schools	<b>170</b>
• Number of students at school-based presentations	<b>2743</b>
• Number of presentations in the community	<b>168</b>
• Number of volunteers	<b>31</b>
• Number of volunteer hours	<b>1329</b>

*It takes a community to end domestic violence*

### Management Team at Family Violence Project

Melody Fitch	Executive Director
Heidi Hall	Director of Administration and Finance
Beth Crowe	Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement
Pam Morin	Director of Shelter Programs
Jaime Mooney	Director of Volunteer and Helpline Programs
Jon Heath	Director of Menswork

### Board of Directors

<u>President</u>	David White
<u>Vice President</u>	Nate Richards
<u>Treasurer</u>	Rick Barry
<u>Secretary</u>	Dan Howard
<u>Board Members</u>	
Heather Akeley	Alicia Barnes
Jon Doyle	Maeghan Maloney
Lian Oyerbides	James Ross
Donna Russell	Rosemary Winslow

Family Violence Project  
P O Box 304  
Augusta, Maine 04332-0304

Non profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Augusta Maine 04330  
Permit 592

**Return Service Requested**

Family Violence Project is a member of MCEDV—Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence. [www.mcedv.org](http://www.mcedv.org). Family Violence Project is supported by Maine Department of Health and Human Services and United Way of Kennebec Valley and United Way Mid Maine.



**MCEDV.** Maine Coalition to  
End Domestic Violence



**To contact Family Violence Project:**

**24/7 Helpline 1-877-890-7788**

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

**Family Violence Project Vision & Mission Statements**

**Vision** The vision of Family Violence Project is a community where violence is unacceptable and people treat each other with respect.

**Mission** The mission of Family Violence Project is to end domestic abuse in Kennebec and Somerset counties.

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.