



Blaine House Tea To Honor People Who Are Committed to End Domestic Violence

Every year in October, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) co-hosts a Tea with the Governors office to honor and recognize community members and statewide partners who are committed to ending domestic violence. Last fiscal year the in Maine:

- MCEDV member projects served more than 13,000 women, children, and men who were affected by domestic violence.
- MCEDV member projects provided more than 22,000 nights of shelter.
- MCEDV member projects receive a hotline call every 10 minutes.
- In Maine, the crime of domestic assault is reported to police every 96 minutes, but the prevalence of domestic violence is much higher, however, because many people do not report domestic assaults to the police.

MCEDV and it's member projects are thankful for the strong network of community partners and volunteers. These individuals and groups are needed to provide on-going support for people experiencing domestic violence, impact public policy, and raise awareness.



Jon Falk
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
Statewide

Jon Falk wears many hats – recently he became the director of Peace through Interamerican Community Action, or PICA (www.pica.ws/). This amazing Bangor-based grassroots organization works to foster a global community of citizens that strives to reclaim democracy, advance human rights, create economic justice, and promote peace.

Jon is also a founding member of the Pine Tree Folk School (www.ptfolkschool.org/), a non-profit organization committed to providing education for social change. Through Pine Tree, Jon developed and maintains HelpNet, a list serv cooperative which provides eastern Maine grassroots, community-based organizations and their employees, computer and technology assistance. This includes problem solving as well as an avenue to recycle used equipment.

This is how MCEDV met Jon – we needed a problem-solver!

MCEDV retained Jon October of 2002. At the time our technology had taken a nosedive. We had lost our internet, thus email services. On top of this important loss we began having troubles with our phones. When we asked our building mates for a recommendation they encouraged us to contact Jon.

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Without
volunteers
our work
would not
be
possible.

Since that frightful day in '02 Jon has been irreplaceable! He quickly took care of our internet worries and updated our phone system. We continue to rely on Jon's expertise for "emergencies" like pointing out to us technically-challenged folks that the reason a printer won't print is because it is unplugged, as well as our true emergencies when a computer crashes. He is always only a phone call away.

Jon is also savvy when we need to update or purchase new equipment. Always considering our budget, he always has our best interest in mind and knows how to find top-of-the-line / state-of-the-art equipment at a reasonable cost.

Jon is much more than our go-to-computer guy. His calming presence during technological crises is his standard operating mode. Since PICA and MCEdV share a building we get the benefit of not only leaning on Jon for help, but we also get to share laughs with him.

We are honoring Jon today for his dedication to ensuring that our work is done without technological clitches. And because he got our heat turned on!



John Paterson and Lori Londis Dwyer
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
Statewide

John Paterson and Lori Londis Dwyer – attorneys at law with Bernstein-Shur, have contributed countless hours of pro bono legal services to MCEdV over the past three years. Their counsel on a legal matter has also provided MCEdV with invaluable insight as to our policies and best practices – and what we might do to continuously improve upon them as we as a coalition continue to evolve.

John Paterson joined Bernstein Shur in 1981. He serves as chair of the firm's Litigation Practice Group. His litigation practice focuses on a wide variety of civil and administrative litigation, including business and corporate disputes, insurance, media law, personal injury, professional malpractice, antitrust, products liability, and securities.

John is recognized by *Best Lawyers in America* for his work in appellate law, antitrust law, and First Amendment law. He is currently the Chair of the Baxter Compensation Authority, a State agency created in 2001 to provide compensation to former students of the State operated Baxter School for the Deaf who were the victims of long term physical and sexual abuse.

Lori Londis Dwyer joined Bernstein Shur's Litigation Practice Group and Labor and Employment Practice Group in 2005. Her practice focuses on general litigation issues. Lori is a graduate of University of Maine School of Law, where she received the Faculty Significant Achievement Award, the Law Alumni Association Award, and the Wernick Prize for Legal Writing for her article, *The Corporate Face of the Alien Tort Claims Act: How Old Statute Mandates a New Understanding of Global Interdependence*, 57 Me. L. Rev. 141 (2005).

MCEdV is incredibly honored and grateful to have two such well-known and respected attorneys committed to supporting MCEdV, our mission, and our future.

MCEdV's mission is to create and encourage a social, political, and economic environment in which domestic violence no longer exists, and to ensure that battered women are supported and that batterers are held accountable.

MCEdV mobilizes and coordinates community action through a statewide network of domestic violence projects. Through these partnerships, we focus our resources on public policy, education, and systems advocacy.



Holly English
New Hope for Women
Knox, Lincoln & Waldo Counties

New Hope for Women has been blessed to have Holly as a volunteer for about ten years. It is rare to have a person committed to volunteering for so long given this work can be draining and challenging, and each year Holly continues to give more of herself to working with New Hope.

Holly is an amazingly warm and caring woman. She has not only opened her heart to people experiencing domestic violence, but to staff as well. Holly wants to know how staff is doing, and is genuinely concerned that staff takes time for themselves. She understands the difficulties of providing domestic violence intervention and prevention services.

All of New Hope for Women's volunteers are special, and without them New Hope would be lost. New Hope truly depends on volunteers to give up bits and pieces of their lives to support the people experiencing domestic violence. Volunteers are there for New Hope year after year working alongside New Hope with few rewards. Holly is one of a few volunteers who have been with New Hope for a number of years, and New Hope appreciates her dedication.



Margaret and Gary Hagan
The Battered Women's Project
Aroostook County

Over the past 15 years, the Hagan family has contributed annually to the holiday campaigns that provided gifts to families affected by domestic violence using the Battered Women's Project's services. The contributions grew significantly over the years and enabled the Battered Women's Project, with the Hagan's encouragement, to do new community out-reach that focused on children's and youth services. The Hagan family's support has enabled the Battered Women's Project to bring productions of the "Yellow Dress" and "You the Man" into Southern Aroostook. Thousands of high school students have received information and resources on dating violence and healthy relationships for the past decade. Prevention programs and outreach materials are updated annually. The Battered Women's Project provides school programming for Kindergarten through grade 12 that focuses on age appropriate anti-violence curriculums that is supplemented by the Hagan Families generosity. On behalf of the countless people that have benefited from the thoughtfulness of Margaret and Gary Hagan the Battered Women's Project has selected them as recipients of the 2007 MCEDV Recognition for their contributions to end domestic violence in Maine.



Georgie Kendall
The Next Step
Washington & Hancock Counties

Georgie has been assisting victims of domestic violence in Washington County for many years – she began her volunteer work before The Next Step (TNS) started delivering services to Washington County in June 2004. She continued to volunteer her time for an additional two years working on the hotline and in other important capacities.

Georgie has dedicated her life to making the lives of women better. She is the Washington County Coordinator for Women, Work, and Community (WwC), a position she has held for four years. She has done wonderful work with many women in shelter, helping them make plans and envision opportunities that may not have been able to see without her help.

Although her WWC position is a full time job, Georgie found the time to take at least two or more shifts every month covering hotline calls from people whose lives were affected by domestic violence. She has been reliable, thoughtful, caring and supportive and has helped so many people with her good work.

Georgie also created and headed with much enthusiasm the very popular Downeast Diva Shows as a fund and awareness raiser in local Washington County towns with proceeds going to both WWC and TNS. It was a chance for women – and men – to have fun together and support a great cause. These events created an important opportunity for TNS to increase name recognition, contacts, and volunteers.

The Next Step honors Georgie for her help, her passion, and her devotion to the women of Washington County.



Jeannette Libby
Abused Women's Advocacy Project
Androscoggin, Oxford and Franklin Counties

Jeanette Libby spent thirty years as an advocate at the Abused Women's Advocacy Project (AWAP) before retiring in July. She had been with the agency almost since its beginning in 1977 and helped change the lives of thousands of women and children who spent time at the shelter over the years. She was a tireless and fearless advocate on behalf of these women and children. Her dedication, warmth, humor and story telling have been appreciated by shelter residents and staff alike.

Jeannette's commitment to the work has never wavered and for an amazing thirty years the community and AWAP have been blessed to have her. She has set an example for all of us. AWAP honors Jeannette Libby for her remarkable contributions to the domestic violence prevention movement, AWAP, and the families we serve.



Laine Parsons
Spruce Run
Penobscot County

Laine Parsons embodies the true spirit of a community partner. She has been a counselor at Penobscot Job Corps Academy for the last 13 years. Through her work, she met many women and children whose lives had been affected by domestic abuse. Wanting to help, she started as a Spruce Run volunteer in 1996. She ran children's groups and co-facilitated kidworker trainings for many years.

Laine has a rare ability to connect with students and to be a catalyst in their process of getting what they need—whether what they need is a safety plan, a home, a job, or a deck of playing cards. She also has a vast knowledge of the resources available. She is able to identify individual needs, and to collaborate in the systemic changes necessary to meet them.

She has led initiatives within the Penobscot Job Corps Academy community that have increased awareness of and access to Spruce Run services and spread the word that domestic abuse is unacceptable.



Faye Luppi
Family Crisis Services
Cumberland & Sagadahoc Counties

Faye Luppi has been since 1999 the Director of the Violence Intervention Partnership in Cumberland County. Faye graduated from the University of Maine School of Law in 1985 and had worked in a variety of legal arenas before joining the V.I.P. as its director. Currently she teaches Juvenile Law as an adjunct faculty. She has worked diligently to sustain the criminal justice improvements in which she has been involved, not only in Cumberland County, but statewide. She has been instrumental in bringing significant nationally recognized trainers to Maine. Faye is a consummate facilitator, collaborator and trainer extraordinaire and has enabled Maine's expertise to reach the international arena – in both Russia and Brazil. But most importantly to Family Crisis Services, she has been a trusted partner in the work.



Sue Mackey Andrews
Womancare
Piscataquis County

Sue has been a tireless advocate for children and families in Piscataquis County and beyond for many years. She has resided in Dover-Foxcroft since 1979 when she moved her family to Maine from the hustle and bustle of western Massachusetts. Her two daughters, Sydney and Jessamyn, grew up in this community and have prospered from our great educational system both within our community as well as the University and Community College systems. Her husband, Fred, is an elementary/middle school guidance counselor in MSAD #4 and was honored at Womancare's annual meeting for his work with youth. Sue was responsible for starting the local Child Development Services (CDS) office in Piscataquis/Somerset/ Penobscot counties. Five years later, she had the privilege of working for the State of Maine as the Executive Director of CDS before leaving that position to branch out into private consulting services in 1992.

No stranger to airports, Sue has traveled to 48 states and Puerto Rico since 1992 to assist state departments in developing and improving their early childhood systems, particularly those services focusing on children 0 - 5 with developmental delays and their families. For the past three years, Sue has turned her attention more towards her home state and particularly our local community, serving on the board of Pine Tree Hospice, as an appointed member of the Dover-Foxcroft Charter Commission, and as a founding member of Community First. She is currently an appointed member of the School Reorganization Committee for the northern Penquis Region.

Her work as co-chair of the Womancare Capital Campaign Committee has been about more than raising money for the new building. This opportunity has provided more events to create awareness and provide education about domestic violence and its impact upon children, families and our senior population, and what it does to our economic vitality as a region. Womancare honors Sue for her incredibly effective leadership to our campaign and her dedication to the children and families of our community. Thank goodness she made that move north in the late 70's!

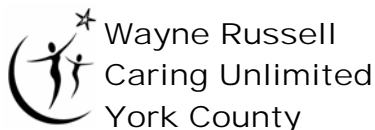


James Ross
Family Violence Project
Kennebec & Somerset Counties

Jim has been in law enforcement for 31 years. He spent the first 21 years as a Game Warden, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant. He then worked with Skowhegan Police Department for over 6 years before District Attorney Evert Fowle then offered him the position of Domestic Violence Investigator for the Somerset County District Attorney's Office, a position he has held for the last 2 1/2 years. He feels fortunate to have a wife and family that have supported him during his law enforcement career. Both of his sons have gone into law enforcement full time, Michael with the Somerset Sheriff's Department and Brian with the Farmington Police Department.

While working as a Detective for the Skowhegan Police Department Jim was asked to represent them on the Somerset County Domestic Violence Task Force. He says "I was intrigued by the passion many of the members held for their work, and I was concerned about the lack of trust towards law enforcement in this group. I really wanted to become more involved to get us all working together to combat the violence so prevalent in parts of our society. When I was offered the D.V. Investigator job I saw it as a way to achieve this goal. I have seen a profound change within the Task Force as to the groups focus and ability to share ideas and work together. It is a group I have truly enjoyed working with. Our Task Force is comprised of a very diverse user group and everyone has the opportunity to participate."

Jim has been an active participant in a number of Praxis International Coordinated Community Response trainings and in January will take over as chair of the Somerset County Domestic Violence Task Force. He is participating in the Safety and Accountability audit occurring in Somerset County and is interested in team training with local Community Educators on the topic of Domestic Violence. He is an advocate for victim safety and is currently working to help varied groups understand what a victim actually experiences by sharing a taped call to a local dispatch center. He is a true community partner.



In November, 2003, the Maine State Housing Authority began a pilot program to provide affordable housing for Southern Maine's homeless population, called the Rental Assistance Coupon program, or RAC. MSHA made the wise decision to hire Wayne Russell to coordinate this program for York and Cumberland counties. Since then, Wayne has provided funds for safe and affordable housing to several women through CUs outreach programs and to dozens of women going through Caring Unlimited Shelter Program.

Wayne's approach is one of compassion and understanding. He gives to the women something very few do, a second chance. Wayne understands that a woman may have been sanctioned by TANF, because her abuser refused to let her work. He gets that another woman with an assault charge, may have been acting in self defense. Wayne has gone out of his way to inspect an apartment, so a woman and her children do not have to be homeless for one more night. Wayne understands the women's struggles. He provides the women with a wonderful example of a sympathetic male figure. He lends an understanding ear and really hears their stories, not with judgment, but with compassion. He understands the dynamics of domestic violence.

Wayne offers hope to women who often come with none and for this Caring Unlimited honors Wayne on behalf of the women who use their services.