

# Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims



170 Park Street

Bangor, ME 04401

Phone: (207)941-1194

Fax: (207)941-2327

Email: [info@mcedv.org](mailto:info@mcedv.org)

Statewide Helpline:

1(866)834-HELP

1(866)834-4357

[www.mcedv.org](http://www.mcedv.org)

**Our 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.**

## MCEDV Statement

September 25, 2007— We extend sympathies to family and friends whose lives have been touched by the horrific injustice of murder.

In Maine, domestic violence is a serious and tragic crime. A national report released earlier this month measuring the rates of female homicide, places Maine 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Over the last ten years, domestic violence has been attributed to more than half the homicides.

The picture that emerges from Maine's homicide statistics is that someone is just as likely to be murdered by a family member as a stranger or acquaintance.

For women-- they are most often murdered by a spouse or intimate acquaintance. Many women—live in fear. They fear violence in their homes and they fear someone who supposedly loves them. They fear their spouse or former intimate partner will hurt them or their children.

When murder happens in the home, it has a devastating and brutal effect on the family. In the words of a mother who lost her child:

*In 1993 my 9 year old son Matthew was among the homicide statistics. The medical examiner identified him as a victim of child abuse, the killer was his father. Depraved indifferent murder was the conviction, Domestic violence was the root of a father, husband, man who looked to control the lives of his family. The ultimate means of control was in taking our son's life.*

*Matthew will live for ever in my memory and he will always be remembered for the love and courage he gave to his brothers, sister, mother and friends. His life now speaks to others as an important message in bringing greater awareness to communities about the issue of domestic violence.*

These are the words of one mother. On this day, across the nation people honor Matthew and other murder victims. Unlike Matthew we have the privilege to be standing here today. For this, we bear the responsibility to do as his mother asks. Do not let it be the end of his legacy or the legacy of any other murder victims. We must raise awareness and help others avoid the same tragic fate Matthew suffered.

The 2006 Maine Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel Report shared that many people who know domestic homicide victims expressed frustration because they knew abuse was occurring. They asked:

“What could I have done? I knew he would kill her. I wanted to help but didn't know what to do.”

Each of us can help by learning more about domestic violence and the available resources. Local domestic violence projects offer this information and provide free and confidential services for people who are experiencing abuse or those who know someone experiencing abuse.

For more information contact:

Nicky Blanchard, ME Coalition to End Domestic Violence:  
(207)941-1194 or [nicky@mcedv.org](mailto:nicky@mcedv.org)