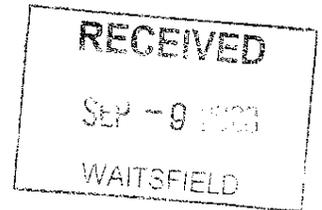




BATTERED WOMEN'S SERVICES AND SHELTER

P.O. Box 652, Barre, VT 05641

24-Hour Toll Free Hotline 1-877-543-9498



September 8, 2008

Town of Waitsfield, Vermont
Select Board
9 Bridge Street
Waitsfield, VT 05673

Dear Select Board,

Battered Women's Services And Shelter (BWSS) is requesting \$350 for FY09 from the Town of Waitsfield in support of the work that we do for victims of domestic violence. Enclosed with our request you will find our statistical information from Fiscal Year 2008.

BWSS is a small, community based organization dedicated to ending all forms of domestic violence. BWSS provides services to all victims of domestic violence, regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnicity. BWSS has always provided these necessary services at no cost, which is why we greatly depend on and truly appreciate the continued support from the community that we serve.

We ask that the taxpayers of your town be notified of our request so that they may choose to support the services that BWSS provides. We at Battered Women's Services And Shelter ask that this request be included in the warning for the next Town Meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact our administrative office at (802)-476-6010 or email bwss@sover.net.

Sincerely,


Carolyn Baker
Direct Service Coordinator
Battered Women's Services And Shelter

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The ways in which BWSS serves our community does not remain stagnant, and our programs and procedures must accurately reflect these changing times. By reviewing and updating current policies, we have been able to measure our growth, visualize our strengths, and determine what gaps must be addressed in order for us to continue to provide services that address the needs of victims of domestic violence. The work that is done now will have a lasting effect on the entire organization, by providing the framework and direction for the future progression of the services and work that we do.

Throughout our review and updating process, BWSS staff and volunteers were kept extremely busy during fiscal year 2008 providing the following services:

- Over the past year, staff and volunteers responded to 3,520 hot line calls, an average of almost 300 calls per month.
- Shelter services were provided to 23 women and 27 children for a total of 1,952 bed nights, an increase of over 20% of bed nights from last year.
- Our schools programs and on-going school support groups reached a total of 852 students in Washington County through the 115 presentations and groups held during this fiscal year. BWSS was able to reach over 100 additional students this year due to the combined efforts of our co-facilitators.
- BWSS provided community presentations to 598 individuals through the 32 presentations offered to individuals and professionals in Washington County.
- Advocates provided support to 138 plaintiffs during Final Relief from Abuse Hearings, and assisted 90 individuals file for temporary orders.
- Court Education Program was presented to 171 individuals.
- Over of 1,500 people received direct services from BWSS, which are maintained by trained staff and volunteers.
- BWSS offered an on-going support group to the women at Dale, reaching 53 women. An additional evening support group was offered to women in varying locations throughout Washington County and reached a total of 9 women.
- Our organization continues to rely heavily on the vast support of our Board Members and hotline, shelter, and community events volunteers. Our 18 dedicated and generous volunteers contributed over 8,000 hours to the work of BWSS.

Our services include:

- SHELTER: Emergency Shelter for women and children fleeing from domestic abuse
- SHELTER YOUTH PROGRAM: Available to children staying in shelter
- Toll Free 24-HOUR HOT LINE (1-877-543-9498)
- EMERGENCY, CIVIL and CRIMINAL COURT ADVOCACY
- SUPPORT GROUPS
- VIOLENCE-FREE RELATIONSHIP PROGRAM: offered to middle and high school students across Washington County.
- EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS: offered to civic organizations and businesses.
- INFORMATION AND REFERRAL: information about domestic violence and community resources, as well as individualized advocacy and referral to social service, legal, employment, counseling, and housing options.