

BATTERED WOMEN'S SERVICES AND SHELTER

P.O. Box 652, Barre, VT 05641

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



September 16, 2009

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 FY10 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 2009.

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

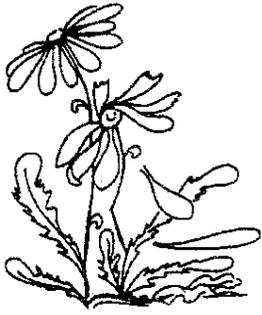
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BWSS is excited and inspired by the new directions that the movement is taking. Our work as advocates is becoming more preventative in nature, increasingly pro-active, and wider in scope. The programs provided by BWSS have been evaluated and accordingly modified to better reflect these new directions. BWSS continues to take steps to increase our contacts with other service providers throughout the community to develop broad-based partnerships that address the multiple issues faced by victims of domestic violence. We recognize the importance of having these community connections if we are to effectively and thoroughly address the high numbers of domestic violence incidents in our county. It is our hope that the new directions that we are moving in will increase the overall accessibility to services for all victims, and create long-term, positive changes for everyone in our rural community. Throughout fiscal year 2009, BWSS staff and volunteers were kept extremely busy providing the following services:

- Over the past year, staff and volunteers responded to 4,536 hot line calls, an increase of almost 25% in calls compared to the previous year.
- Shelter services were provided to 24 women and 18 children for a total of 1,021 bed nights, with an average stay consisting of 42 nights.
- Our school programs and on-going school support groups reached a total of 1,660 students in Washington County through the 120 presentations and groups held during this fiscal year. BWSS was able to almost double the number of students reached this year due to the combined efforts of our co-facilitators.
- BWSS provided community presentations to 535 individuals through the 39 presentations offered to individuals and professionals in Washington County.
- Advocates provided support to 97 plaintiffs during Final Relief from Abuse Hearings, and assisted 101 individuals file for temporary orders.
- Court Education Program was presented to 192 individuals.
- Over of 1,500 people received direct services from BWSS, which are maintained by trained staff and volunteers.
- BWSS offered numerous evening support groups, reaching a total of 17 women. This evening group was also able to offer childcare to 8 children of the participants.
- Our organization continues to rely heavily on the vast support of our Board Members and hotline, shelter, and community events volunteers. Our 20 dedicated and generous volunteers contributed over 8,000 hours to the work of BWSS.

Our services include:

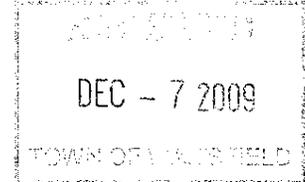
- SHELTER: Emergency Shelter for women and children fleeing from domestic abuse
- SHELTER YOUTH PROGRAM: Available to children staying in shelter
- TOLL FREE 24-HOUR HOT LINE (1-877-543-9498)
- EMERGENCY, CIVIL and CRIMINAL COURT ADVOCACY
- SUPPORT GROUPS
- PREVENTION EDUCATION OFFERED TO SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT 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.



BATTERED WOMEN'S SERVICES AND SHELTER

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December 4, 2009

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

Dear Select Board,

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the people of Waitsfield for awarding Battered Women's Services and Shelter funds for fiscal year 2009 so that we may continue our work for victims of domestic violence. Waitsfield's continued support means a great deal to the many adults and children that we assist break free from the cycles of violence and move on to safe and healthy futures.

Sincerely,

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