

# CIRCLE

CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES  
ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
TOGETHER



August 25, 2011

Town of Waitsfield, Vermont  
Selectboard  
9 Bridge Street  
Waitsfield, VT 05673

Dear Selectboard,

Circle (formally Battered Women's Services and Shelter) is requesting \$350 for FY12 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 2011.

Circle is a small, community based organization dedicated to ending all forms of domestic violence. Circle provides services to all victims of domestic violence, regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnicity. Circle 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 Circle provides. We at Circle 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](mailto:bwss@sover.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Baker".

Carolyn Baker  
Direct Service Coordinator  
Circle





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P.O. Box 652, Barre, Vermont 05641



24-Hour Toll-free Hotline: 1-877-543-9498

Formerly Battered Women's Services and Shelter

Fiscal Year 2011 has proven to be a year of growth and innovation for Circle. We have continued to advertise and promote the organization's name change; we have developed new prevention programming in collaboration with community partners that is reaching new audiences; we have continued to work with law enforcement to provide enhanced first response; and we launched our first-ever website ([www.circlevt.org](http://www.circlevt.org))!! The website is still under construction, but the site already contains a lot of information on all of Circle's services and programs, so feel free to browse and share your comments with us! In addition to all of these new initiatives, Circle advocates were also kept extremely busy providing the following core services:

- Over the past year, staff and volunteer advocates responded to 4,422 hot line calls, an average of 368 calls per month, and an increase of 7% from last year.
- Shelter services were provided to 23 women and 15 children for a total of 1,796 bed nights. We had to refer 19 women to other shelters because ours was at capacity.
- Our prevention based programs in schools reached a total of 1,630 students in Washington County through the 98 presentations and long-term support groups held during this fiscal year.
- Circle provided community presentations to 1,129 people through the 57 presentations offered to individuals and professionals in Washington County.
- Advocates provided support to 124 plaintiffs during Final Relief from Abuse Hearings, and assisted 103 individuals file for temporary orders.
- Court Education Program was presented to 261 individuals, and our Court Hour Program, which offers one-on-one support to plaintiffs as they prepare for their final hearings, was offered to 69 individuals.
- Circle offered numerous evening support groups, reaching a total of 9 women.
- Over 1,500 people received direct services from Circle, which are maintained by trained staff and volunteer advocates.
- Our organization continues to rely heavily on the vast support of its many dedicated volunteers; Board Members, Hotline Advocates, Group Facilitators, and Shelter Support have all contributed over 6,000 hours to the work of Circle.

**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 CONFIDENTIAL 24-HOUR HOT LINE (1-877-543-9498)
- EMERGENCY, CIVIL and CRIMINAL COURT ADVOCACY
- SUPPORT GROUPS

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- PREVENTION EDUCATION OFFERED TO SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT WASHINGTON COUNTY
- EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS and TRAININGS: 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.