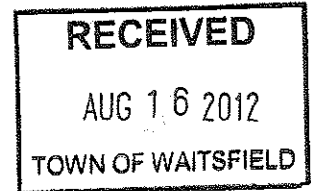




CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES  
ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
TOGETHER

August 14, 2012



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

Dear Select Board,

Circle (formally Battered Women's Services and Shelter) is requesting \$350 for FY13 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 2012.

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





CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES  
ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
TOGETHER

P.O. Box 652, Barre, Vermont 05641



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

Formerly Battered Women's Services and Shelter

The ways in which Circle 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, Circle staff and volunteers were kept extremely busy during fiscal year 2012 providing the following services:

- Staff and volunteers responded to 5,182 hot line calls, an average of 431 calls per month, and an increase of 15% from last year.
- Shelter services were provided to 24 women and 21 children for a total of 2,130 bed nights, which is 334 more bed nights than we offered in the previous year. We also had to refer 29 women to other shelters because ours was at capacity.
- Our prevention based programs in schools reached a total of 974 students in Washington County through the 62 presentations and long-term support groups held during this fiscal year.
- Circle provided community presentations to 652 individuals through the 44 trainings and workshops offered to individuals and professionals in Washington County.
- Advocates provided support to 131 plaintiffs during Final Relief from Abuse Hearings, and assisted 110 individuals file for temporary orders.
- Court Education Program was presented to 301 individuals, and our Court Hour Program, which offers one-on-one support to plaintiffs as they prepare for their final hearings, was offered to 43 individuals.
- Circle offered numerous day and evening support groups, reaching a total of 10 women.
- Over of 1,500 people received direct services from Circle, which are maintained by trained staff and volunteers.
- 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
- 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.