



CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES  
ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
TOGETHER

October 12, 2015

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 FY16 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 2015.

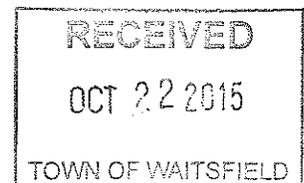
Circle is a small, community based organization dedicated to ending all forms of domestic violence. Circle provides services to all victims of domestic violence, regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnicity. Circle has always provided these necessary services at no cost, which 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,

Whitney Leno  
Direct Service Coordinator  
Circle



P.O. Box 652, Barre, Vermont 05641

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

Formerly Battered Women's Services and Shelter



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This has been a year of transition for Circle, with numerous staffing changes and programmatic reviews, but as you can see from our annual statistics, the need for direct services has remained consistent. More of Circle's time was spent meeting the demands of these direct services, but we continue to provide trainings and to promote community partnerships in order to better serve each victim/survivor of domestic violence. Circle staff and volunteer advocates were kept extremely busy during fiscal year 2015 providing the following services:

- Staff and volunteers responded to 5,212 hot line calls, an average of 434 calls per month.
- Shelter services were provided to 29 women and 18 children for a total of 2,335 bed nights, which is 214 more bed nights than last year.
- Our prevention based programs in schools reached a total of 42 students in Washington County through the 25 presentations and long-term support groups held during this fiscal year.
- Circle provided community presentations to 432 individuals through the 24 trainings and workshops offered to individuals and professionals in Washington County.
- Advocates provided support to 113 plaintiffs during Final Relief from Abuse Hearings, and assisted 121 individuals file for temporary orders.
- Court Education Program was presented to 198 individuals, and our Court Hour Program, which offers one-on-one support to plaintiffs as they prepare for their final hearings, was offered to 38 individuals.
- Over 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 7,671 hours to the work of Circle.

**Our services include:**

- SHELTER: Emergency Shelter for women and their children fleeing from domestic violence
- 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.