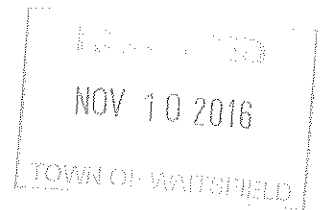




CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES  
ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
TOGETHER



November 2, 2016

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 FY17 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 2016.

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 "Crystal Ryan".

Crystal Ryan  
Criminal Court Advocate  
Circle

P.O. Box 652, Barre, Vermont 05641



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

Formerly Battered Women's Services and Shelter



As Circle continues to serve our Washington County community, our programs and procedures must accurately reflect these increasingly complicated 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 2016 providing the following services:

- Staff and volunteers responded to 4,956 hot line calls, an average of 413 calls per month.
- Shelter services were provided to 26 women and 19 children for a total of 3,063 bed nights, which is 728 more bed nights than last year.
- Our prevention based programs in schools reached a total of 67 students through the 10 presentations and long-term support groups held during this fiscal year.
- Circle provided community presentations to 338 individuals through the 25 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 122 individuals file for temporary orders.
- Court Education Program was presented to 186 individuals, and our Court Hour Program, which offers one-on-one support to plaintiffs as they prepare for their final hearings, was offered to 23 individuals.
- Circle held 15 support group sessions, which 16 women attended, and 34 people received legal assistance through our free Legal Clinics.
- 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, and Shelter Support have all contributed 9,902 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.