new beginnings... START AT INTERVAL HOUSE

LONGTIME PROGRAM COORDINATOR RETIRES

For Donna Andrini, working at Interval House for the past 16 years (the first two as a volunteer) has been a true labor of love. As a survivor of domestic violence herself, she has worn many hats at the agency, finally ending her career in August as coordinator of Interval House East, the satellite office based in Manchester.

“Donna’s contributions to Interval House have been enormous,” said Executive Director Cecile Enrico. “From starting as a volunteer, to working as an advocate in the courts, staffing our hotline, and eventually coordinating Interval House East, she has done it all and made a direct and positive impact on the lives of countless numbers of people she has helped over the years.”

Whether it was her advocacy for victims in civil and criminal court, or helping first-time callers to the Manchester office hotline, Donna’s skill and dedication to her clients was unmatched,” said David Rivera, an Interval House colleague.

Recently, the staff held a surprise retirement luncheon for Donna. Along with congratulatory wishes from friends and co-workers, one public official marked the occasion too. US Sen. Richard Blumenthal sent Donna a special senate citation and letter of appreciation.

“For years, Interval House has been a tireless force in preventing family and intimate partner abuse,” Blumenthal wrote. “This mission, however, would not have been accomplished so successfully without the unwavering dedication of individuals like (Donna Andrini).”

.intervalhousect.org

NEW LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM AIDES VICTIMS

Interval House began participating in the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) in July 2012. Manchester Police Department (MPD) was our first LAP partner. MPD was an obvious choice.

The Domestic Violence Outreach Team (DVOT), a partnership between both agencies, has been housed at the Manchester Police headquarters since 1997.

One of the first Connecticut domestic violence organizations to participate in LAP, our partnership has grown to include five other law enforcement agencies: Canton, Hartford, Rocky Hill, Simsbury and West Hartford. Connecticut State Police, East Hartford, Farmington and South Windsor Police Departments will soon be coming aboard. LAP is part of a statewide initiative that CCADV oversees. All eighteen domestic violence agencies, more than thirty municipal police departments and the Connecticut State Police are engaged in the program.

So what is the Lethality Assessment Program? LAP is an innovative partnership with law enforcement to implement nationally recognized risk assessment strategies to identify and better serve domestic violence victims in the greatest danger. It is a two-pronged intervention process that features a research-based lethality screening tool and an accompanying protocol referral. LAP provides direction for officers to initiate a call to the 24-hour domestic violence hotline if the victim “screens in.”

The process begins when an officer arrives at the scene of a domestic violence call.

Victims are asked 11 questions. Has he or she ever used a weapon against you, or threatened you with a weapon? Has he or she threatened to kill you or your children? Do you think he or she might kill you?

If they answer yes to any of the first three questions, it’s an automatic call to the hotline immediately to talk to a certified domestic violence crisis counselor and connect the victim with that counselor.

Four or more yes responses to the remaining eight questions would also trigger an automatic protocol to contact the hotline.

Police are encouraged to make the call even if the victim doesn’t screen in, but his or her gut feeling is that the victim is in serious danger. Use of the lethality assessment screen enhances the officer’s investigation. The interaction with the hotline has strengthened the relationship between Interval House and law enforcement.

Officer’s note that when they ask the questions victims say things like: “Oh yeah, he threatened to kill me in front of the kids.” Victims often don’t say those things out loud and convince themselves that the abuser doesn’t mean it. After answering the questions and being confronted with the results of the screening, victims often view their situation with much more seriousness.

The use of the lethality assessment research-based screening tool and accompanying referral protocol enables law enforcement officers and the hotline to work hand-in-hand to actively engage high-risk victims who might not otherwise seek the support of domestic violence advocates. They may not even

INTERVAL HOUSE

Along with Blumenthal and Dickenman, some other members include, UConn Director of Athletics Warde Manuel, UConn Women’s Basketball Coach Geno Auriemma, and UConn men’s basketball Coach Howie Dickenman. The group has included a diverse group of people from across Connecticut including law enforcement officials, professors from UConn, UConn Campus Ministry and medical professionals from UConn Health Center.

The mission of the group is to stop domestic violence.

“The group is comprised of men from different walks of life, who share the common goal of ending domestic violence,” said Enrico. “Since its inception, the group has raised money for the cause, but more importantly awareness, said Cecile Enrico, Interval House’s executive director. ""Having these well-known Connecticut officials marked the retirement luncheon for Donna.

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We would like to thank all our sponsors, donors and guests who contributed to the record-breaking success of Step Up and Step Out 2014, a Heart and Soul Benefit for Interval House. Because of you, we’re able to continue to do our work of Saving Lives, Giving a Voice and Changing the Future.
CONNECTICUT CALENDAR GIRLZ CONTINUE TO SUPPORT DV VICTIMS

Interval House wants to thank The Connecticut Calendar Girlz for their continued support. Since 2012, Pia O’Halloran, Denise Longhi, Karen Stanford, and their team of models, photographers, makeup artists and antique car owners, have produced a calendar dedicated to women and families affected by domestic violence. Here is an excerpt from the 2014 calendar:

“This calendar is devoted to battered and abused women and children, the survivors of abuse, and all others that are in an environment of domestic violence. The proceeds from this calendar will be going to the Hartford Interval House, Inc. who are dedicated to providing services to prevent and break the cycle of family and intimate partner abuse.

The photographs depict women, in our community, that represent diverse backgrounds and experiences. These women participated in this project as a way to empower and benefit women who do not have their own voice.

This calendar is one way to convey the message that: All Women Are Beautiful.”

Lethality Assessment Program Continued...

be aware of available domestic violence services.

Interval House services don’t stop at the hotline call. Safe housing is provided if necessary and advocates follow up with the victim, connecting her to family violence victim advocates in criminal court. Safety planning is ongoing and counseling, advocacy and support services are offered.

Confidentiality is maintained throughout. Often, police will follow up with the victim and may initiate another case report and subsequent warrant for the batterer’s arrest based on answers pertaining to previous behavior.

Collaboration is the key and safety planning is part of every conversation.

Victims are surrounded with services and support. Safety is enhanced. Interval House and its associate police departments are working together in partnership with victims to help them move from victim to survivor and ultimately... thriver.

– By Penni Micca, Interval House Domestic Violence Outreach Team Coordinator and Victim Advocate.

IF YOU WANT TO BECOME AN INTERVAL HOUSE VOLUNTEER CALL: 860-246-9149, Ext. 350

WISH LIST: and Shelter Items Always Needed: Gift cards of any kind, paper goods, bath and bedding items, and cash donations. For an updated wish list, go to: intervalhousect.org/wish-list

GRANT AWARDS
For the period of: 01/22/2014 - 09/24/2014
By Darlene M. Demetri
Interval House Grant Writer

We extend our deepest appreciation to the following grant makers who generously supported Interval House:

♦ Bank of America Charitable Foundation
♦ Berkshire Bank Foundation
♦ Bernau Family Foundation
♦ The Charles Nelson Robinson Foundation, Bank of America, Trustee
♦ Charter Oak Foundation
♦ City of Hartford Community Development Block Grant
♦ City of Hartford Hearth Emergency Solutions Grant
♦ Farmington Bank Community Foundation
♦ Lincoln Financial Foundation
♦ NewAlliance Foundation
♦ People’s United Community Foundation
♦ Petit Family Foundation
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♦ Swindells Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
♦ The Ensworth Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
♦ The Fund for Greater Hartford
♦ The TJX Foundation
♦ Town of East Hartford Community Development Block Grant
♦ Verizon Foundation

Each year, Interval House educates thousands of people about domestic violence and abuse. To have someone come to your school, church, business or organization to speak, please call: 860-645-4034, Ext. 301

Lt. Gov. Wyman poses with the CT Calendar Girls at Interval House’s Step Up & Step Out Gala.
2015 Save the Dates!

April 2: Breakfast With Champions Honors Dr. William Petit, The Riverview, Simsbury.
May 16: Step Up & Step Out Gala, Hartford.

THANK YOU!

TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS, WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE:

- Marie Klehart of South Windsor and The Grand Lodge Daughters of Scotia for their generous donation.
- To Donna Andrini for 16 years of dedicated service to Interval House and countless victims of domestic violence and abuse.
- Dr. Susan DiVietro and the Center for Injury Prevention at Hartford Hospital for collaborating with Interval House.
- Paulette Griffin and the CT Judicial Branch Community Service Program for its ongoing help with mailing.
- Sally Farrell of Wethersfield and a group from the Tabernacle Church for a day of spa treatment and gifts for shelter residents.
- The Greater Hartford Larrabee Fund and Windows Society for the ongoing support.
- The XL Group for choosing Interval House for the last four years for the company’s Global Day of Giving, and items purchased for repairs and renovations projects at the shelter.
- To the CCSU Men’s Basketball Team for their fall cleanup at the shelter.