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PEACE BEGINS WITH ME

ANNUAL REPORT 2007



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Mission Task Force

on Family Violence provides education, advocacy and resources to keep people safe.

Vision Creating

communities where people live peacefully.

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LEADERSHIP

to guide on a way especially by going in advance or to direct on a course or in a direction

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT

In 2007, we dedicated ourselves to the belief that peace begins within each of us.

At the Task Force on Family Violence (TFFV), we understand that the work to end domestic violence in our community is inherently linked to our ability to help people find and build peace in their own lives. This belief is the bedrock of the work we do with each and every one of our clients.

During the past year, we continued to see a high demand for services. Over 6,000 clients came to us for assistance. In this work, we had well over 25,000 contacts with people seeking to find a better way of life. It was our honor to support them on this journey.

In addition, we are also proud of our many new accomplishments, some of which include:

TFFV Community Partnerships

We continued to strengthen our programming for families and children impacted by domestic

violence by partnering with others. To best perform this core crisis work, we maintain significant partnerships within the community, which includes joint programming with the Healing Center of Milwaukee, Walker's Point Youth and Family Center, Wisconsin Humane Society, Sojourner Truth House, Alma Center, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office and the Milwaukee Police Department, to name a few.

TFFV Prevention Plan

In 2007, TFFV staff completed a TFFV Prevention Plan that positions the agency's existing work within a prevention framework and outlines our plan for providing more significant prevention services to the community in the next five years. To help stop violence before it occurs, the plan evaluates current prevention efforts at the TFFV, the connection between public health and violence prevention, best practices of family violence prevention and current research in the field. As TFFV continues to offer quality programming, incorporating this strategic plan will enhance our services and provide more comprehensive and sustainable prevention-based work to help stop violence before it starts.

TFFV Life Skills Programming

This program was established in response to our clients' expressed needs for help in obtaining employment and furthering their education and life goals. In 2007, the program's first full year of operations, we hired a full-time Life Skills Coordinator to teach classes, act as a liaison to employers and educational institutions, cultivate volunteers, and mentor survivors of domestic violence as they work toward achieving their goals. As a result, 249 women received intensive and individualized assistance in escaping both the cycle of violence and poverty. We are pleased with the success achieved in just this first year of programming.

Your partnership and support has made peace possible in the lives of our clients. Thank you for your continued faith in our work.



Leigh Riley
Board President

Carmen Pitre
Executive Director





STATISTICS

Total Clients Served
6,056 were served in 2007

Gender		Income	
Female	81%	\$0 - 11,999	38%
Male	19%	\$12,000 - 14,999	16%
		\$15,000 - 24,999	15%
		\$25,000 - 49,999	09%
		\$50,000 - 74,999	02%
		\$75,000 & over	02%
		Unknown*	18%
Race		Age	
African-American	49%	0 - 12	03%
Caucasian	25%	13 - 17	03%
Hispanic	11%	18 - 34	45%
Asian	01%	35 - 54	33%
Native American	01%	55 & older	05%
Other/Unknown*	13%	Unknown*	11%

*Most "unknown" are one-time calls

The needs in our community have led the Task Force on Family Violence to offer the above services, free of charge, in English, Spanish and Russian. Speakers of other languages are provided with an interpreter and those who are hearing impaired have the opportunity to communicate through a TTY connection.

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"Peace means at ease, no worries, no violence; means being able to speak your mind."

Claudette
Group Member

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SUPPORT

to give assistance or to uphold or defend as valid or right

HIGHLIGHTS

Community Domestic Abuse Advocacy Project (CDAAP)

This innovative project, a collaboration between the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Milwaukee Police Department (MPD), Sojourner Truth House (STH) and TFFV, has allowed the TFFV and STH to create an advocacy program implemented within the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Community Prosecution effort. Advocates are located at three MPD Districts and are readily available to respond to referrals from MPD officers and community prosecutors. These advocates provide confidential one-on-one case management services to families referred to the program including safety planning, information and referrals for shelter, child care, counseling, health care, restraining orders, legal assistance and other needs. Advocates also work to strengthen their relationships with MPD and the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, allowing easier navigation and access for victims who request assistance.

Milwaukee County Intimate Partner Violence (MCIPV) Hospital Consortium

The TFFV organized the MCIPV Hospital Consortium to help create an infrastructure for universal screening in Milwaukee's five area hospitals with TFFV serving as the community partner in this effort. The goal of the project is to create the process for educating and supporting health care professionals in screening for domestic violence in their local practice. In addition, we are working to standardize screening policies across all local hospitals and create an "Intimate Partner Violence Task Force" to serve as champions within each hospital. We also hope to create a blueprint for providing domestic violence advocacy services within the healthcare setting to provide survivors of intimate partner violence who disclose such experiences in medical settings the opportunity to consistently access community resources such as legal advocacy, case management and support services needed to address the violence in their lives.

Child Witness to Domestic Violence Project (CWDVP)

The TFFV Child Witness to Domestic Violence Program (CWDVP), is a critical service for children and families impacted by domestic violence in our community. In 2007, we completed three 12-week sessions of this program and the demand for services remains high. A portion of 2007 was devoted to developing an aftercare program for families completing the CWDVP, which will be implemented in 2008.



"Peace constitutes solitude,
smiles, friendliness and
pride in oneself and
enjoying life."

Angela
Group Member



COURTHOUSE ADVOCACY

Initiated in 1986, the Courthouse Advocacy Program is the “front door” to the civil legal system for thousands of victims of domestic violence and abused children who need legal protection in Milwaukee County. The TFFV is the only domestic violence program in Milwaukee that helps victims obtain restraining orders and injunctions to protect themselves from perpetrators of domestic violence. The program is housed in Room 711 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse and operates 8:00am – 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

The TFFV Courthouse Advocacy Program is staffed by six full-time advocates who provide legal advocacy to clients who are seeking protection from the violence in their lives. In this program, we help victims with safety planning (reviewing the risks of future violence and how to protect themselves and their children), assist them in completing the necessary paperwork for

petitioning the court for civil orders of protection, accompany them to court, and provide them with access to on-going services to meet their emergency needs related to escaping family violence.

Through our partnership with Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc. (LAW), lawyers provide intake for clients at least once a week to assess their legal needs and eligibility for free legal advice and representation from the firm. In addition, LAW collaborates with TFFV in this program by assisting with the on-going training and support of volunteers, including employees from Quarles & Brady, a large local law firm, and Marquette Law School.

In 2007, the Courthouse Advocacy Program undertook several new efforts to collect data on outcomes that measure our clients’ perception of safety, their access and referrals to community resources and the effectiveness of services received through the TFFV. The three specific projects

included in this effort are the United Way Outcomes Project, a national pilot coordinated by the Department of Health and Family Services and the TFFV agency-wide evaluation plan implementation in partnership with the Center for Urban Initiatives & Research at UW-Milwaukee.

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“In order to achieve peace, it has to radiate from the inside out.”

Salita
Staff Member

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Tracy Pirman-Dukiewicz
Lois Radke and Walter Parker

EMPOWERMENT

to promote the self-actualization or influence of

LEGAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP)

Seeking and obtaining a legal order of protection is just one step in leaving an abusive relationship. Victims of family violence require additional tools and empowerment to escape their situations and avoid further violence. The Legal Emergency Assistance Program provides one-on-one advocacy and support to victims who need our help. LEAP advocates help victims find and access shelter, find and maintain safe housing, provide emergency food, assist with finding child care, provide access to counseling, provide referrals to health care, and arrange civil legal services through our partnership with Legal Action of Wisconsin. Victims may also need specialized assistance, such as having an advocate meet them somewhere other than the courthouse to begin the restraining order process or other safety planning.

Safe Mom/Safe Baby

Safe Mom/Safe Baby is a collaboration with Aurora Health Care that provides services to women who are currently pregnant or have recently had a baby and are experiencing intimate partner violence. Task Force advocates offer coordination of services; connections to community resources such as housing, shelter, emergency assistance, and legal services; support and education about intimate partner violence; and safety planning.

Community Domestic Abuse Advocacy Project (CDAAP)

In 2007, LEAP increased programming with the addition of CDAAP, a collaboration between the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Milwaukee Police Department (MPD), Sojourner Truth House (STH) and TFFV. Through this project, domestic violence advocates based within three police district stations provide front-line, confidential services to victims of domestic violence when an incident occurs

and police are called to the scene. This partnership allows advocates the opportunity provide safety planning immediately following an incident which is essential to the safety of victims, especially those who may feel threatened by involving law enforcement or the criminal justice system. Beyond safety planning, advocates offer victims support, advocacy and referrals for shelter, child care, counseling, health care, restraining orders, legal assistance and other needs.

The CDAAP and partnership with MPD, the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office and Sojourner Truth House is the first step in a collaborative response to the violence occurring in Milwaukee. It is essential to the TFFV's mission and has proven to be extremely successful in creating awareness needed to ensure safety in the lives of victims and their families.



“ No more hurtful, fault finding and hateful words. No anger or guilt would give me the peace I deserve. ”

Janet
Client



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY

A companion to LEAP, the TFFV Children's Advocacy Program was created to provide specialized case management and legal assistance services to protective parents whose children have been victims of physical or sexual abuse or who were exposed to domestic violence. The goal of this program is to protect children from further maltreatment and to advocate within the systems working with children affected by family violence.

Systems Advocacy/Training

In 2002, the Milwaukee County Child Abuse Review Team (CART) developed a Joint Protocol on a Collaborative Response to Child Maltreatment for the Milwaukee community with the goal of enhancing our systemic response to child maltreatment. The Task Force was designated as the best location to house the coordinator who oversees the multi-disciplinary child abuse team of Milwaukee County and its Child Advocacy Center. The Multi-Disciplinary

Team Coordinator facilitates the successful functioning of the team and helps maximize the relations among interagency partners who engage in joint cooperation in handling child physical abuse, sexual assault and neglect cases.

Child Witness to Domestic Violence

The Child Witness to Domestic Violence Project's (CWDVP) goal is to reduce the harmful effects of children's exposure to domestic violence. CWDVP accomplishes this by training professionals who work with children in the Milwaukee community and offering direct case management services for families affected by domestic violence. In addition, CWDVP facilitates twelve-week educational support groups for children who have witnessed violence which include developmentally-appropriate programming for children who have been traumatized by witnessing violence in their homes, and emphasizes the prevention of future violence. In 2007, the TFFV completed three 12-week

sessions of this program and the demand for services remains high. A portion of 2007 was devoted to developing an aftercare program for families completing the CWDVP, which will be implemented in 2008. The aftercare program will complement and build on the foundational coursework of the CWDVP. Focusing on family strengthening, the aftercare program creates an environment for families to work together. Parents and teens will work to increase positive communication in the Nurturing Program, offered in partnership with Walker's Point Youth & Family Center, and parents with younger children will participate in healing art projects and work with animals in partnership with the Wisconsin Humane Society.

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"Peace means protecting the human right to safety and acknowledging our interconnectedness."

Liz
Staff Member

SUPPORTING OUR MISSION IN 2007

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EDUCATION

to develop mentally, morally, or to train by formal instruction and supervised practice especially in a skill, trade, or profession

ENDING VIOLENCE THROUGH EDUCATION (EVE)

Initiated in 2005, Ending Violence through Education (EVE) provides gender-specific education and support to women with a history of sexual and/or physical abuse. Specific course offerings include: support groups for survivors (offered in Spanish, English, and Russian); intervention classes for female and same-sex abusers; Parenting After the Violence Ends (PAVE) classes for non-offending parents (offered in conjunction with the Child Witness to Domestic Violence Project); family-strengthening and violence prevention classes offered in partnership with the Wisconsin Humane Society.

The combination of EVE and the Child Witness to Domestic Violence Program (CWDVP) integrates what our organization has learned about combating family violence over 30 years of providing services. Through EVE and CWDVP, we provide specialized intervention and education to individuals within a context of

comprehensive programming for the entire family.

EVE personnel also work on an individual basis with clients who need extra mentoring and support through our Life Skills project. We assist women in developing critical life skills to free themselves from the cycle of violence and poverty. In an additional effort to implement long-term solutions to domestic violence, EVE offers quarterly Restorative Justice Circles with the goal of restoring the voice and power of survivors and helping perpetrators understand the impact of their violence on partners, children, extended families, and communities.

Community Outreach and Prevention

In addition to our important work with survivors of violence, the TFFV strives to prevent the cycle of violence through its prevention programming. In 2007, TFFV hired a Community Education & Prevention Specialist who offers primary prevention

programming and educational outreach to the Milwaukee community. The TFFV also works in collaboration with the Humane Society through the Building Humane Families program. This program is housed at the Humane Society and includes a seven-week course for children and families. The curriculum focuses on peaceful parenting and working with animals to teach altruistic behavior.

In 2007, TFFV staff completed a comprehensive, five-year family violence prevention plan which will enhance our services and provide more sustainable prevention-based work to help stop violence before it starts. The plan includes current prevention efforts at the TFFV, the connection between public health and violence prevention, best practices of family violence prevention and current research in the field, and recommendations for expanding TFFV's efforts in primary prevention of family violence.



"If there is peace in my family, there will be peace in my soul."

Irene Client



EMBRACING ALL

It is important to remember that . . .

Domestic violence cuts across all racial and economic boundaries and victims come from every walk of life. No one ethnic group or economic class is more susceptible to domestic violence than another. In 2007, the Task Force on Family Violence served 5,790 individuals. The majority of TFFV clients are women who come from families who are at or around poverty level. All clients are assisted free of charge and come from every geographic area in Milwaukee County with requests for services concentrated in the inner city of Milwaukee.

The demographics shown in this report do not reflect the demographics of families affected by domestic violence on the whole, but the backgrounds of those served by the Task Force. Task Force clients typically fall into low-income brackets because they lack access to resources. Access to money would allow these victims to use more private avenues of seeking help to end the violence in their lives. A victim from a wealthy background is more likely to have access to other resources such as a lawyer, transportation, lodging, etc.

“Peace is love, no fear, no guilt, no threats, no intimidation. Peace is knowing who you are.”

Vilena
Group Member



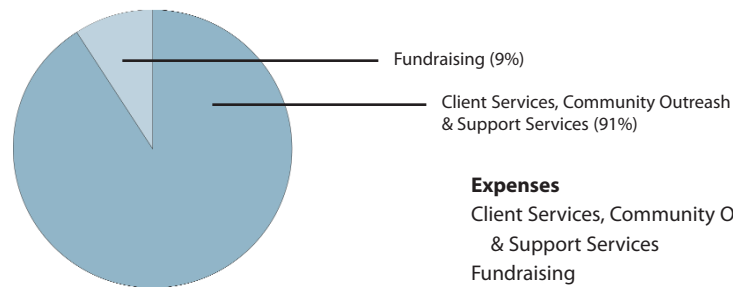
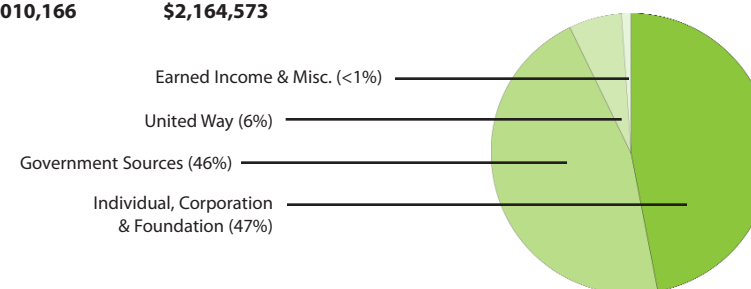
“Peace means getting up in the morning and feeling happy; to plan life and think about the future.”

Anastasia
Group Member

FINANCIALS

Revenue	2006	2007
Individual, Corporation & Foundation	\$997,598 (50%)	\$1,026,747 (47%)
Government Sources	\$876,098 (43%)	\$990,819 (46%)
United Way	\$128,171 (6%)	\$139,443 (6%)
Earned Income & Misc.	\$8,299 (<1%)	\$7,564 (<1%)

TOTAL \$2,010,166 2006 **\$2,164,573 2007**



Expenses	2006	2007
Client Services, Community Outreach & Support Services	\$1,902,624 (93%)	\$2,016,577 (91%)
Fundraising	\$135,919 (7%)	\$192,912 (9%)

TOTAL \$2,038,543 2006 **\$2,209,489 2007**