

Member of NRV Task Force on Domestic Violence among Older Adults Earns Statewide Recognition



Janet Brennend was recently recognized for her dedication to preventing the abuse of older adults.

This May, Janet Brennend, a member of the NRV Task Force on Domestic Violence among Older Adults, earned statewide recognition for her dedication to preventing the abuse of older adults. She was named the 2007 recipient of the Helen J. Napps Award of Excellence.

Brennend has spent 25 years advocating for individuals experiencing abuse, devoting her life's work to helping others. From Women's Resource Center crisis intervention volunteer to ombudsman and elder abuse prevention specialist with the New River Valley Agency on Aging, she has been continually dedicated to ending violence.

In 1990, Brennend began working as a WRC volunteer. During her 12.5 years with the WRC, she spent time as an advanced crisis intervention volunteer, intern, and staff person. She helped establish the

now-thriving children's tutoring program at the shelter and for a time filled the WRC Community Resource Specialist staff position, a service created to help individuals experiencing domestic and sexual violence connect with needed community resources such as low-income housing.

Brennend expanded her mission to end abuse by becoming long-term care ombudsman and elder abuse prevention specialist for the Agency on Aging. When asked about her successes, Brennend continually notes her experiences working with the WRC. "Being a volunteer gave me the opportunity to learn and expand my knowledge of abusive situations," she says. "WRC services do not only benefit victims but volunteers and community members as well."

Brennend remains involved with the WRC through the New River Valley Task Force on Domestic Violence among Older Adults. The Task Force mission is to raise awareness and improve community response to older adults experiencing domestic and sexual violence. The group is currently working on several projects, as well as planning for its annual conference, to be held on October 11, 2007.

"Aging adults often begin experiencing a series of losses; this doesn't have to mean the loss of resources."

- JANET BRENNEND
2007 RECIPIENT OF THE
HELEN J. NAPPS AWARD

The task force has become a venue for all interested persons and professionals to discuss the specifics of older adult abuse. "Through educating those who work directly with older adults, we are able to reach this population more effectively," explains Brennend. She added, "Aging adults often begin experiencing a series of losses; this doesn't have to mean the loss of resources."

The NRV Task Force on Domestic Violence among Older Adults is facilitated by the WRC and meets on the second Thursday of every other month. All interested persons are welcome to attend. For more information on the Task Force or the Annual Conference, contact WRC Community Outreach Coordinator, Mary Beth Pulsifer, at 540.639.9592.

The WRC would like to congratulate Janet Brennend on her recent award and thank her for her continued service!

New WRC Logo ...A Symbol of Peace

Throughout the 30-year history of the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley, it has been important to us to listen to the people we serve. They have taught us about the needs of people who have experienced domestic and sexual violence. And we have added services in response to those articulated needs, such as children's services, legal advocacy, and transitional housing. We have heard from our community about the need for primary prevention and created our *Peaceline* prevention program for teenagers.

One lesson we have learned is that someone who has experienced domestic or sexual violence has, at the very least, had their inner peace disturbed and in many cases taken away completely. Healing from interpersonal violence includes a process of reclaiming that inner peace. The more people in a community who are living violence-free lives and lives filled with attaining peace, the more that community will reflect that peace.

As we chose a new logo in celebration of our 30 years of serving people who have experienced domestic or sexual violence, we wanted it to reflect that very belief. To us, the single dove in flight represents the simplicity of an individual and a community free of domestic and sexual violence. It is our mission and our hope to continue to create a community free of domestic and sexual violence.

In Peace,
Pat Brown
Executive Director



{2007 - }



{1997 - 2007}



{1987 - 1997}



{1977-1987}

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Margie Vitale



A Survivor Finds Satisfaction through Helping Others

Tuesdays at our Emergency Shelter are overflowing with positive energy. Weekly, you can find Marjorie "Margie" Vitale, a WRC volunteer of almost four years, busily helping shelter staff, clients, and new volunteers.

Margie became involved with the WRC after attending an informational program at her church. She felt volunteering would enable her to connect to individuals in need. Being a survivor of domestic violence, Margie wants to help women in crisis to understand "there are people out there that can help them." "The abuse doesn't have to continue," she says adding, "they have other options."

Committed to the program, Margie volunteers in the hotline area for several hours every Tuesday. Eager to stay busy, she answers hotline calls and completes various projects. Most recently, Margie has been designing a modernized hotline area. Her vision is for a more efficient helping environment, including updated furniture and technology.

Margie was the WRC nominee for the "Lenna & Jim Moore Citizenship & Community Service Award," which recognizes area volunteers for exceptional service. The energy and positive spirit that Margie brings to the WRC are invaluable. We cannot thank Margie enough for her time dedicated to the program.

Left: WRC Volunteer Margie Vitale, spends every Tuesday at the shelter.

CORNERSTONE KIDS

Developing Healthy Relationships; Experiencing Hope

Cornerstone, the WRC apartment style housing for women and children transitioning to a violence-free lifestyle, was bustling with children this summer! With eight school-aged children living in the facility with their mothers, the children's program didn't slow down for the summer. New Children's Coordinator Jake Woodfin, and Cornerstone kids were tackling new adventures every day.

The children stayed active with trips to Mill Mountain Zoo, basketball games, bowling, tubing, and walks on Wildwood Trail. One day, the children even stopped to catch minnows and crawfish at Connelly's Run! Most recently, the kids were working on art projects. Using a variety of donated art supplies, their artwork ranged from happily drawn stick figures to a detailed painting of a ship.



Sample of artwork produced by children participating in the Children's Program at Cornerstone.

"We were looking for teachable moments."

– Cornerstone Children's Coordinator

"It was not all about having fun and staying active," said Woodfin. "They learned about healthy relationships." While the children were shooting hoops or hiking in the park, Woodfin was constantly looking for insight into their lives and opportunities to talk with them about coping and life skills. "We were looking for 'teachable moments' that occur through participation in fun and normal activities," explained Woodfin.

In addition, the Cornerstone program currently gives children the opportunity to experience a positive, reliable male figure. As almost all of the children have come from situations in which men are intimidating and abusive, Woodfin believes it makes a distinct impact on the children that he is a male in a helping role. "It means so much to them that I do what I say I'll do...it's a big deal to stay consistent and gain their trust."

In their young lives, the children at Cornerstone have experienced scores of intense and sometimes painful emotions. With the help of the Children's Program, they are now enjoying laughter, building friendships, and perhaps most importantly, developing a sense of hope.

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The WRC would like to remember all those affected by the events of April 16, 2007.

We would also like to express our deepest gratitude for donations made in memory of Nicole Regina White. Nicole volunteered her time in many capacities, including time with the Women's Resource Center.

The ribbon logo is used with permission of Virginia Tech.

24-Hour Crisis Hotline: 540.639.1123
or 1.800.788.1123 (regional access)

Office: 540.639.9592
E-mail: director@wrcnv.org
www.wrcnv.org



women's resource center
of the New River Valley

P.O. Box 477 | Radford, VA 24143

Want to Get Involved?

There are many ways you can help the Women's Resource Center provide services to individuals in crisis. Not only does the WRC accept monetary and in-kind donations, donations of your time are welcomed as well! Listed below are volunteer opportunities provided by the Women's Resource Center.

- Crisis Intervention Volunteers play many vital roles: responding to a 24-hour crisis hotline, assisting in the day-to-day support services within the shelter, and protecting the confidentiality and security of our clients.
- Emergency Advocates accompany, to the hospital or law enforcement agencies, those experiencing crises involving domestic and/or sexual violence.
- Children's Program Volunteers work directly with children, doing everything from child care, tutoring, after-school programs, story hours, crafts, games, and enrichment activities.

For more information on our volunteer opportunities, please contact us at volunteers@wrcnr.org or call (540) 639-1123.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please return the enclosed envelope, or contact the administration office at 540.639.9592, administration@wrcnr.org, or at P.O. Box 477, Radford, VA 24143. Checks can be made payable to the Women's Resource Center.

You can also help by making donations in kind! For example, these essential supplies are needed monthly:

- Toilet paper (24 rolls)
- Paper towels (15 rolls)
- Laundry detergent (20 lbs.)
- Trash bags (2 boxes)
- Large and extra-large diapers (1 package each)
- Dishwashing liquid (2 bottles)
- Bathroom cleaner (2 cans)
- Light bulbs (2 boxes)
- Bleach (6 gallons)

For more information on needed supplies, please call us at 540.639.1123, or check out our website at www.wrcnr.org.

