

Dear Friends,

At WISE, we feel strongly as ever about the importance of community engagement in the issues of domestic and sexual violence. We are working hard to provide increased information and resources to you through new print materials, media coverage, community forums and training, our updated web-site, and many terrific partnerships.

WISE's small staff is growing so that we can respond more fully to our twenty-one towns and local colleges, throughout the Upper Valley. We are thrilled to welcome several new team members to WISE this fall: Delaney Anderson, WISE Campus Advocate, Kaitlin Chakoian-Lifvergren, Prevention Educator, and Pam Broadley, Program Advocate. Tricia Spellman joined us as a new board member this past fall as well. Read more about these wonderful WISE women in this fall edition of Highlights.

Our work at WISE is dynamic and expanding. We will only end this devastating violence in our special community through a shared commitment to no longer tolerate it. We invite you to join with WISE, and with each other, to work toward creating this change.

Warmly,


Peggy



Save the dates

Conversations for Change
1st Monday of each month
Starts November 2

Writing Workshops
November 4 & 11
Wednesdays in January

Program Center Tour
November 17 - 8:15 am-9:15 am

Court Observer Training
December 8 - 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Spring Volunteer Training
Starts March 2

Unedited Voices
April 7

Board Members

Pat Palmiotto, *President*
Jenny Williams, *Vice President*
Gretchen Rittenhouse, *Treasurer*
Sharin Luti, *Secretary*
Emily Dentzer
Brian Edwards
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Martha Goodrich
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Chuck Wira
Peggy O'Neil, *Executive Director*
Julia A. Lynch, *Tuck Revers Board Fellow*
Lauren L. Trombadore, *Tuck Revers Board Fellow*
Susan Dewees, *Board Emeritus*

Patricia Spellman joined the WISE Board of Directors in June 2015 for a three-year term. Tricia is currently Assistant Vice-President for Finance at Dartmouth College. Tricia lives in Norwich with her husband, Jim Westrich, and their seven-year old daughter, Mary.

highlights

October 2015

end violence
wise
share hope • change lives



When I understood the scope of domestic violence in the Upper Valley, I could not turn a blind eye toward it. I had to do something. The staff and volunteers at WISE are a gifted and dedicated group committed to eliminating this violence from our communities. I want to help them achieve that goal.” - Stan Colla, Hanover Resident & Volunteer Advocate

We are growing

We are pleased to introduce the latest additions to our very talented staff. We expanded our limited staff resources so we can be more responsive and engaged with our communities.

Delaney Anderson joins us as our Dartmouth Campus Advocate, a position created in collaboration with Dartmouth College. Delaney holds a Master’s degree from Florida State University and has most recently worked as the Program Director of the Survivor Advocacy Program at Ohio University. Prior to this role, Delaney worked for several years as a victim advocate.

Pam Broadley is our newest full-time advocate. Pam has worked at WISE for the past three years through the AmeriCorps Victim Advocacy Program. Pam first worked with victims as a WISE crisis line volunteer, after many years on the leadership team in Development at Dartmouth College.

Kaitlin Chakoian-Lifvergren joins us as an educator in the Prevention and Education Program. Kaitie holds a Master’s degree from Northeastern University and has worked for the past six years at Girls’ LEAP, a Boston-based organization dedicated to empowering girls and young women.

New this fall

We are very excited to unveil our new training curricula. We created a training program for all community members who share our commitment to ending violence in the Upper Valley. By providing different levels of training, we offer more opportunities for individuals to engage and help us with our work.

Basics of Supporting Survivors: Training for community members interested in learning more about our work or becoming WISE Ambassadors.

Advanced Supporting Survivors: Training for community members who complete basic training and want to work on our Crisis Line or facilitate survivor groups.

Crisis Line: Training for WISE-nominated graduates of basic and advanced training to serve as advocates on the crisis line.

Survivor Group Facilitator: Training that equips WISE-nominated participants with skills to facilitate survivor groups.

For more information, contact Chelsea Williams, 603-448-5922, ext 120.

“Working with our volunteers is such a gift. They see a problem within our community and offer their time, compassion and commitment to eliminating it. It’s inspiring.” - Chelsea Williams, Training Coordinator



Volunteer spotlight: Jeremy Coylewright in his own words

"I am a full-time stay at home and homeschooling father of four children and I am a WISE crisis line volunteer. The extreme levels of violence against women in our society play a large role in why our family chooses to homeschool. I witnessed sexual and relationship violence as a middle schooler and saw abuse and harassment continue throughout my high school experience. I was shocked when my close friend reported her own sexual assault one night during my sophomore year in college. It was the crisis line advocate I talked to that night that I credit with saving my own life and that of my friend. The advocate provided a model for how I could address gender violence as a man in our society.

By volunteering and supporting WISE, I am taking a stand as a feminist man, a partner and husband, a father and a son. I try to bring my experience and training with WISE to my other community groups - homeschooling or educational, my church, and sporting communities. We must all learn from one another and work together to eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault in our community."



Future leaders

We were honored to be invited to Lebanon High School to participate in an Enhanced Learning Opportunity (ELO) focused on understanding current issues for teenage girls and creating opportunities for both group and individual activism. We presented the dynamics of social inequality that perpetuate violence against women and girls. Several students consulted with us on their final senior projects and invited



us to participate on a panel after viewing *The Hunting Ground*. The girls wrestled with their own interpretations and internalization of harmful messages that pitted them against each other and their own sense of self. They identified the ways that this often played out in their own school, classes, and relationships, and worked to find the communication and nuance to shift the attitudes and behaviors in their own lives and with their classmates. We are very proud of these young women and were grateful to participate.



Catching up with WAEV

In September 2013 we started our WISE mobilization group: We're Acting to End Violence (WAEV). This group of WISE supporters creates diverse and tangible opportunities for Upper Valley community

members to participate in ending men's violence against women. WAEV has a number of exciting projects and welcomes community participation.

On December 8, we will begin training our first group of Court Observers. WAEV Court Observers (COs) are community members who bear witness to court proceedings involving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking at the request of the victim. Court Observers simply and powerfully sit on the victim's side of the court room during hearings to show support and solidarity for individual victims and everyone impacted by violence.

Many of you remember Unedited Voices in 2013. It was an opportunity for survivors to share their stories without being silenced. It was a powerful evening and we believe valuable to continue. This fall, writing workshops begin in preparation for our second production. Our next Unedited Voices evening will be on April 7th. Please let us know if you would like to participate.

October: domestic violence awareness month

Over the past 20 years, 50% of all Vermont and New Hampshire homicides were domestic violence related. In fact, domestic violence is the leading cause of violent death in our two states. On Sunday, October 4th we held a community vigil and picnic at Storrs Hill to honor victims and survivors of domestic violence in the Upper Valley. We provided the space and opportunity for our community members to remember, honor and learn more about domestic violence that so many women experience throughout their lives.

We offered music, bonfire, and different ways to engage. The gathering served as a launching pad for future Conversations for Change.



Healthy relationships and the digital divide

We invited parents of middle school students to join us at the Converse Free Library in Lyme, NH to spend an evening sharing the joys and concerns of raising digital natives. Parents were given an opportunity to share concerns, triumphs, and strategies. Many realized they are not – in fact – the ONLY ONE who had rules and struggles with their children about technology. We shared our WISE guidelines for positive practices and protective strategies for raising children online. One of the parents noted how lonely parenting adolescents can be, and how helpful it was to have the time, space, and comfort to reach out to others for support. This is one of the ways that WISE can guide opportunities for others to connect and make their own way in the cultural shift that must happen.

“Thank you for a terrific presentation. There are so many questions and decisions for people to grapple with – I’m glad we could help people feel less alone.” – Judith Russell, Librarian

Community outreach

You may have noticed some of our new outreach materials around the community. We began an intentional social marketing campaign this fall. We know that we can end violence by taking some of our education and prevention programming out of the classroom and into the community.

Does your partner poster

Sometimes the warning signs of relationship abuse are not acknowledged or understood. We created a poster to educate the community about the many different ways abusers assert power and control over their victims. The poster invites readers to evaluate their own relationships by asking a series of simple questions.

WISE at Dartmouth

wise
@
Dartmouth

Different news outlets reported on our formal agreement with Dartmouth College and the new WISE advocate co-located on campus and our Program Center. But less known is our student affiliated organization WISE@D that provides outreach and volunteer recruitment within the Dartmouth community.

The student-run group of amazing individuals produced Still I Rise, a performance by Dartmouth students, faculty and staff sharing their experiences of dating and sexual violence and stalking.

In partnership with WISE@D, we created Dartmouth WISE Nights. Last spring, our educators spent several evenings with fraternities talking about dating and sexual violence. The conversations provided the opportunity for fraternity members to ask questions and better understand the dynamics of sexual violence. We look forward to continuing our conversations with the Greek community this fall.



Advance Transit signs

There are many harmful myths about domestic and sexual violence and stalking. The myths lead us to blame, judge and silence victims and survivors. We created a series of signs placed inside Advance Transit buses seeking to dispel these myths and communicate the truths. The messages not only speak directly to survivors, but also educate the rest of us. To see the whole campaign, visit www.wiseuv.org/wise-support.



WISE in the news

We were very visible in the press this year. *Valley News* featured our education and prevention programs, *Here in Hanover* reported on our longstanding relationship with Dartmouth College, and our Program Director, Kate Rohdenberg wrote about consent and respect in *Kids Stuff Magazine*. Our formal agreement with Dartmouth College was announced in *Valley News*, *The Dartmouth*, *Dartmouth Now*, and aired on WPTZ and WCAX. We were quoted in *The Christian Science Monitor* and *Concord Monitor* as the media tried to make sense of the St. Paul's rape trial, rape culture and teaching consent. To read these articles, visit www.wiseuv.org/wise-in-the-news.

Does your partner...

- disrespect** you in public or in private?
- get angry** if you spend time with others?
- monitor** your phone/emails/facebook?
- prevent** you from working or taking care of yourself?
- take** your money and not pay you back?
- insist** "this is what relationships are like" or that your friends or family are trying to ruin your relationship?
- blame** you for problems in your relationship?
- pressure** you to have sex, do drugs or illegal activity?

Our heartfelt thanks

We are very grateful for the continued community endorsement of our work. We received tremendous help from individuals like you who generously choose to support our mission to end domestic and sexual violence and stalking in the Upper Valley. Over the past three years, community contributions have grown by more than 15% each year.

This summer and fall, several community groups chose WISE as the beneficiary of their organized events: Chamber Concert at First Congregational Church of Lebanon, Dan & Whit's Wine Tasting, Game Set Match Community Yoga, Mob of Angels. We are very honored that community organizations continue to support our work.

Again this year, WISE was designated as the sole beneficiary of The Ottauquechee Music Fest and the Upper Valley Wellness Festival.

Part of our community outreach work means participating in community events. Our incredible ambassadors represented WISE at the Hartford Community Coalition Block Party, farmers markets in Canaan, Enfield, Hanover, Hartland, Lebanon, and Norwich, and the Upper Valley Suicide Walk for Awareness.

We had a successful first year experience with our Covered Bridges Half Marathon WISE team of runners. We loved the energy and strength of the wonderful people who trained and dedicated themselves to running for WISE. Our WISE team raised over \$10,000! Keep an eye out for information about next year's race.

