



Building a Culture of Peace

*The History of the Domestic Violence Movement
in North Carolina*

AUGUST 2011

Introduction

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This history has been created to honor the many years of advocacy and activism to end domestic violence in North Carolina, and to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence. One of our goals is to remember each other and the important work we have done together so that our collective efforts, including the struggle and sacrifice of many, will not be forgotten.

As with any history, the information contained in this booklet is merely a beginning. Advocates, activists and allies are encouraged to use this historical account to spark conversations in your communities to uncover the roots of your local movement to end battering. Because our movement’s history is a chronicle of action, we should use the successes and challenges of those who came before us as stepping stones to build momentum to carry us forward.

Many thanks are due for the creation of this document. Local programs around the state sent NCCADV information about the history of organizing work in their areas, and in doing so provided a great amount of insight about the progress of the statewide movement to end battering. Several individuals took their time to review this document and provide information from their own recollections and documentation. Judy Chaet, Pat Dean, Mary Margaret Flynn, Kathy Hodges, Jo Sanders, Joetta Shepherd and Pat Youngblood provided great amounts of assistance in compiling the information in this narrative. Staff and interns at NCCADV spent many hours reviewing historical documents and speaking with advocates across the state to compile this history. As much of the information contained here is based on individual recollections of events as they occurred, there may be some minor historical discrepancies. We hope that the readers of this document will forgive any historical inaccuracies that have endured our review process, and will benefit from the overview of the tremendous growth and success of our movement to end battering.



1979

Although important and life-saving work was surely done prior to this point, this history begins with the first measurable swell of community organizing to end domestic violence, which took place on both a national level and in North Carolina in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In 1978, local organizing led to the establishment of the Shelter Home of Caldwell County and to Clara’s House in Winston-Salem. These were the first shelters in North Carolina for victims of domestic violence, rape and sexual assault and for the children of these victims. They were the only domestic violence shelters on the East Coast between Baltimore and Atlanta for several years.

The following year, 1979, marked the first major legislative recognition of domestic violence in North Carolina. Chapter 50B of the NC General Statutes, the Domestic Violence Act, was passed to grant protection to domestic violence victims through the provision of domestic violence protective orders. Initially, relief granted under Chapter 50B was limited to spouses, former spouses and parties who lived or had lived together as if married.

In these early years of the movement, advocacy work was primarily performed on a local level. The passage of Chapter 50B led to an increase in public awareness about domestic violence, and connections between local advocates began to form. By 1981, there were 21 known domestic violence programs and 9 independent shelters in North Carolina. Advocates across the state began

to organize themselves and to come together to share ideas and have discussions about common struggles and successes. From these initial conversations, the North Carolina Association for Domestic Violence Programs (NCADVP) was formed in order to provide a forum for networking and information sharing for advocates who were organizing to end domestic violence in their own communities. On January 23, 1981, NCADVP filed its Articles of Incorporation and became the first statewide domestic violence advocacy organization in North Carolina.

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The initial structure of NCADVP included four regions, and much of the information sharing work done by advocates was accomplished through this regional structure. Region meetings were held frequently and were well attended. NCADVP also held statewide meetings where advocates from around the state gathered to strategize about the work of the movement. Initially, these NCADVP meetings were held at Guilford Technical College in Greensboro. NCADVP members discussed issues that are still critical to the movement today, including funding, confidential versus disclosed shelter locations, and the role of men in the movement to end violence against women.

1981



Some limited funding was available to local programs through a competitive grant process channeled through the NC Council on the Status of Women. Programs and advocates also sometimes secured funding through direct lobbying efforts with their legislators. The amount of these funds varied considerably from program to program and was not assured from year to year. When grant contracts were issued, advocates made the trek to Raleigh to sign the grant contracts.

Many of the conversations among NCADVP members focused on the needs to have unity and shared vision within the movement. One strategy to help ensure that all programs had access to similar information was through training. NCADVP held its First Annual Domestic Violence Training Conference at Appalachian State University in Boone in 1981, with 60 advocates in attendance.

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information about domestic violence and to find additional time to strategize about the direction of this burgeoning movement.

Through the information shared at NCADVP meetings and events, as well as the increasing public consciousness about domestic violence, more communities across the state began to organize, and the North Carolina shelter movement began to grow. By 1983, the number of organized domestic violence programs and shelters had almost doubled, with 53 separate programs operating 20 or more shelters in North Carolina.

The year 1984 was a formative one for the movement to end battering in North Carolina and nationally. The movie *The Burning Bed*, which told the true story of Francine Hughes, a battered woman in Michigan who killed her batterer, led to a great increase in public conversation about the issue of domestic violence. Many programs began increasing outreach into their communities and working on strengthening relationships with law enforcement and other community partners. NCADVP sponsored two statewide conferences during 1984, which offered additional opportunities for advocates to gather and for information to be disseminated, and which proved to be fertile ground for the seeds of change for the anti-battering movement in the state.

The first took place on May 9-11, 1984, when NCADVP worked with the NC Council on the Status of Women to co-sponsor a Statewide Domestic Violence Training with Susan Schechter as the primary speaker. The formation of the anti-battering movement in North Carolina, as in many other states, was heavily influenced during this time by some strong voices speaking on the issue on a national level or in other states. Some



1984

of the most influential people to North Carolina's early work were Ellen Pence, Suzanne Pharr, Barbara Hart, Kerry Lobel, Beth Richie, Susan Schechter and Lydia Walker. Each of these women brought information to North Carolina that helped advocates to think through strategies for building a statewide movement and about working with survivors in an empowering manner.

One of the most important gatherings in the history of North Carolina's movement occurred on September 5-7, 1984. Sixty advocates attended a Leadership Development Conference in Asheboro, NC. Beth Richie, Barbara Hart and Susan Schechter were the key presenters at this conference, and they led discussions about work currently underway in other states and on a national level. Barbara Hart and Beth Richie returned to the state in 1988 to repeat this training with new advocates who had joined the movement. These conversations proved to be crucial to the next stage of development for the movement.

Advocates left the first Leadership Development conference energized to make change in North Carolina and began to more fully research the structure and scope of work in other states. The next month, on October 9, 1984, NCADVP held a statewide membership meeting in Charlotte. Advocates agreed that to this point, the primary role for NCADVP had been to act as a support network for its members. Over time, advocates around the state had become increasingly conscious about the need for a unified voice to engage in public policy advocacy and began to conduct research about the organization of other statewide groups across the country. A proposal was made to follow Pennsylvania's successful model for organizing a statewide coalition. After much discussion, the membership voted, and

NCADVP reorganized to become the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV), commonly referred to as "the Coalition." NCCADV gradually entered the realm of public policy advocacy, and introduced or supported most domestic violence legislation enacted after this date.

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⋮ of Domestic Violence Programs
⋮ (NCADVP) reorganized to become
⋮ the North Carolina Coalition
⋮ Against Domestic Violence
⋮ (NCCADV) in 1984.

The Coalition's structure was organized in such a way to allow all members, through the regional structure that had proven to be an effective method of organizing, to be a part of the decision-making process. The Board of Directors was initially comprised of three representatives from each of the four regions, one representative from each of the three newly-formed caucuses, officers (Eastern and Western co-chairs, Secretary and Treasurer), and a representative to the national coalition. Later, the regional structure was revised to include a total of six regions.

The caucus structure was modeled after that of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and initially included three caucuses: Lesbian, Currently/Formerly Battered Women, and Women of Color. The purpose of caucuses is to provide a mechanism to ensure that the voices of traditionally under-represented groups are heard within the organization and to assist with equalizing the power structure within the Coali-

1985



tion. Caucus members are people who are united by a specific oppression, an additional layer of discrimination over and beyond the shared oppression faced as women. NCCADV developed caucuses because its members strongly believed that all voices must be heard and equally represented in order to have unity and inclusiveness in the movement.

As with the NCADV, the early work of the Coalition happened through in-person gatherings, meetings and trainings. More and more, advocates began to have a dual focus, that of addressing the needs of survivors in their community and also that of creating a force for social change to eliminate the societal supports for battering.

In 1985, NCCADV opened its first statewide office in Concord and hired Mary Margaret Flynn as part-time Executive Director and first paid staff member. Of the early work of the Coalition, Mary Margaret Flynn said “it resonated with people that we were a part of a movement, one that was growing and important. People felt connected and that was important.”

Programs were still working to meet the basic needs of their community, to engage community members in meaningful dialogues about domestic violence, and to keep the doors open. Some of the strongest support for advocates came from other advocates in local programs. This unity of vision and shared purpose helped to lay a strong foundation for the continued success of anti-battering advocacy work in North Carolina. Between 1983 and 1985, the total number of programs operating in the state decreased from 53 to 46. One of NCCADV’s earliest events was a Statewide Day of Unity event in High Point on October 12, 1985.

Also during this time period, a great amount of discussion centered on how to hold batterers accountable for their actions. In addition to the

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work of the Coalition and of local advocates to address batterer accountability within the criminal justice system, conversation began around the effectiveness of treatment options for batterers. The first set of statewide trainings about the treatment of male batterers was held in 1985.

Susan Schechter also returned to the state in 1985 to train advocates on the use of a 10-workshop curriculum using the Empowerment Model. Suzanne Pharr and Catlin Fullwood also provided training for advocates regarding the impact of racism and homophobia and the connections of these oppressions to the work to end domestic violence. These trainings helped to lay the philosophical groundwork for the movement in North Carolina. The grassroots network in the state became stronger each year, and in 1986, North Carolina advocates spoke at the 3rd National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Conference about the topic of grassroots community organizing.

As programs and the Coalition began to grow and become more complex in the types of services and advocacy offered, their financial



1987

needs grew as well. In 1986, Victims of Crime Act funding was made available to domestic violence programs. These funds, like those available through the Council on the Status of Women, were competitive in nature, and amounts varied from program to program. Also in 1986, NCCADV redefined its membership and voting requirements to allow only domestic violence service providers to be voting members. Membership dues were increased to support the work of NCCADV.

Coalition members began having discussions about the unequal distribution of funding for domestic violence programs. To receive any state funding, many programs had to individually lobby their legislators to ask for funding to be set aside for the program or to compete with one another for small grants. This resulted in wide range of funding received for various programs. Concerns were also raised that being forced to compete for funding was a barrier to creating a more unified movement. As communities were still largely unaware or inattentive to the issue of domestic violence, very few programs received large amounts of local support. In 1986, most of the programs experienced a cut in statewide funding, with a couple of exceptions for programs who were able to access large amounts of earmarked funding. To respond to this inequity, a statewide meeting was held, and programs agreed to lobby together for equal funding for all domestic violence programs. The NCCADV Board researched how funding was distributed in other states and decided to lobby the state to provide \$15,000 in equal funding for every existing program. NCCADV Executive Director Mary Margaret Flynn and advocates Lorna Hicks and Judy Chaet met together to discuss how to get the legislation sponsored. They drafted the text of a bill and approached Bob Hunter, who agreed

to be the bill's sponsor. Senator Rand later signed on as a co-sponsor, and the bill was termed the Hunter-Rand Bill.

Lobbying for the bill was accomplished through a well-organized phone tree, through which advocates called one another to share information about the process of the bill and to call for any needed advocacy. The success of this type of organizing effort depends on the complete participation of every member to ensure that all members are contacted and that the appropriate information is relayed. Thanks to the

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strong networks formed through the frequent gatherings, region meetings and trainings, NCCADV members pulled together and met this challenge. In 1987, the Hunter-Rand Bill passed, securing \$15,000 of state money per domestic violence program for two years. This was the first statewide funding in North Carolina allocated to support domestic violence programs and was a major legislative advocacy victory for the Coalition and its member programs.

With the success of the Hunter-Rand Bill, programs experienced not only a degree of financial stability, but also an enhanced sense

1989



of connectedness and shared purpose. They searched for a way to solidify and express this sense. On October 10, 1988, NCCADV held a statewide membership meeting in High Point. During this meeting, advocates worked together and wrote NCCADV's mission statement *Who We Are and What We Believe*, which was provided to programs across the state as a statement reflecting the ideology of the movement in North Carolina. This statement has endured in its original form for over 17 years.

The next major legislative advocacy effort for NCCADV focused on the way that domestic violence protective orders were made available to survivors who needed them. The original 1979 Domestic Violence Act included provisions for a judge to issue a protective order, but victims had to be represented in court by an attorney. This requirement produced a financial hardship for many survivors, who were not able to pay the necessary attorney fees. In 1989, the General Assembly heard from citizens across the state and from NCCADV members, and the pro se option was added to Chapter 50B of the NC General Statutes. This option allows victims to file for protective orders without the assistance of an attorney. In addition, NCCADV effectively lobbied for an increase in state funding for domestic violence programs from \$15,000 per program to \$17,500 per program.

In 1988, through the leadership of Kerry Lobel, the Coalition's Technical Assistance Project was established to support and connect domestic violence programs across the state. A primary goal was to connect service providers with specific information or expertise with other advocates in need of that information. To implement the project, NCCADV organized intensive multi-day trainings for 15-20 advocates from

around the state in order to equip them to provide technical assistance to other programs as needed. Members of the Technical Assistance Team agreed to be available to provide direct assistance to other advocates and programs around the state. Kerry Lobel provided a great deal of support to NCCADV as this program grew and provided a second set of trainings for a technical assistance team in 1992.

Also during May 1989, NCCADV experienced some internal change. Renee Stephens was hired as the Executive Director and first full-time

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employee of the Coalition. At the same time, the NCCADV office was relocated to Durham, NC. This location was chosen for its geographic centrality, its proximity to the state capital and for its strong history of civil rights work.

While the Coalition coordinated much advocacy work on a statewide level, some major battles of statewide significance took place on a local level as well. In 1989, NC Attorney General Lacy H. Thornburg ruled that Albemarle Hopeline in Eastern NC could move a shelter into a neighborhood regardless of expressed community concerns. Because of common stereotypes of the

1992

time, community members had protested the relocation of the shelter because they thought that the neighborhood's crime rate would increase and that property values would decrease. The Attorney General's ruling began to pave the way for domestic violence shelters to locate into residential neighborhoods, and especially into the safer and more prominent neighborhoods across the state. In doing so safely, myths about battered women were challenged.

The same year, the shelter in Caldwell County was taken hostage by a batterer searching for his partner. To raise awareness about the event and about battering, the Coalition hosted a press conference with Whoopi Goldberg as spokesperson and received statewide media attention.

By 1990, 54 domestic violence programs were operating across the state. The work of the Coalition continued to focus on legislative advocacy and training efforts. That year, NCCADV helped to train over 600 battered women's advocates and criminal justice personnel on the pro se option for protective orders, AIDS and racism. Also, NCCADV began the Domestic Violence Resource Center for member use. In the Resource Center, the Coalition collected the most up-to-date information available about domestic violence and provided this information free of charge to its member programs.

A major piece of advocacy began when NCCADV organized a letter writing campaign and increased awareness on dangers of proposed Caller ID Service. A concern with the service was that batterers would use this as a tool to track the location of survivors and of shelters. Advocates worked diligently with Southern Bell to ensure per-line blocking on this system. North Carolina became the primary battleground for this issue,

and much advocacy was done by NCCADV and consumer privacy advocates with the NC Utilities Commission. Eventually, advocates prevailed and Southern Bell agreed to extend per-line and per-call blocking as part of its caller identification service.

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⋮ stalking law was passed that allows for
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⋮ with injury or death.

In 1990, funds for NCCADV ran out, and the Coalition functioned for some time without a paid staff person. However, member programs still maintained contact with one another and continued to advocate for the needs of survivors. NCCADV would function without funds for over a year. During this period, some legislative gains were made, including warrantless arrest for crimes of domestic violence, which allowed officers to arrest without a warrant if probable cause existed, and an increase in marriage licenses fees to support funding for domestic violence programs.

In July 1992, using funding appropriated by the state and marriage license fees, Kathy Hodges was hired as the Executive Director of NCCADV. That legislative session, a stalking law was passed that allows for arrest if the victim has been threatened with injury or death.

Until 1992, no organized study had ever been documented about the needs of the domestic violence movement in North Carolina. In 1992, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation worked with Robin Mauney, Evelyn Williams and Marie Weil to compile information about domestic violence in North Carolina and the needs of the move-

1993



ment and state. The representatives visited programs across the state to conduct their assessment. In 1993, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation hosted a conference and released the assessment, which indicated programs needed stable funding so that victims could have support in their community. It also recommended further study about effective methods of batterer intervention. This study served as the first major review of the issue of domestic violence in North Carolina.

On a federal level, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act was renewed with around \$50,000 dollars for each state coalition and became available to NCCADV in 1993. This funding enabled the work of NCCADV to continue and to grow. That same year, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation made its first grant to NCCADV to fund the Technical Assistance Project. The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation would continue to be a stabilizing funder for the domestic violence movement in North Carolina for more than 20 years. These funds allowed the Coalition's staff to expand to three people and to offer more technical

⋮ **Project Esperanza was formed in 1993**
⋮ **to increase services available to Latina**
⋮ **survivors of domestic violence.**

assistance, including on-site assistance, to local programs. The Coalition maintained its focus on training and membership service by offering a statewide conference and producing its first regular newsletter. The conference was located in Raleigh on the campus of Peace College and featured Beth Richie. Key topics included building skills for activism within the movement.

Another major innovation in 1993 was the formation of Project Esperanza, which was formed to increase services available to Latina survivors of domestic violence. Project Esperanza worked to produce materials for use by domestic violence programs and to increase awareness about the specific needs of battered Latinas in the state.

NC went from having one of the most regressive laws to one of the most progressive in one step in 1993 when North Carolina became the 50th state to repeal the marital rape exemption so that a spouse living in the home could be charged with rape. Representative B. Holt and Senator Elaine Marshall successfully guided this bill through a contentious legislative battle to see it passed and enacted. Prior to the repeal of this exemption, victims of rape by a spouse in North Carolina had fewer legal options than victims in almost any other state because marriage was considered a complete defense to rape. In other words, a person in North Carolina could not legally commit rape against their spouse. When the exemption was repealed, it was repealed completely, meaning that a person raped by their spouse in NC had the same legal options as a person raped by a stranger. At this time, several other states still had separate classifications for rape by spouse versus rape by a non-relative.

The repeal of the marital rape exemption, like most of the legislative successes before it, was accomplished through grassroots activism and lobbying efforts of both domestic violence and sexual assault advocates. NCCADV worked closely with the NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA) on this and many future legislative initiatives.

As mentioned, NCCADV had a highly developed and very effective phone tree system, and advo-



1995

cates were committed to making sure that they kept one another abreast of current legislative information. The NCCADV newsletter also served as a voice for the dissemination of this information, as did the ongoing regional meetings. However, as the consciousness of the public and of the lawmakers in NC increased about domestic violence, the Coalition began to recognize the need to have a consistent presence to represent their interests in the legislature and monitor the progress of legislation on a daily basis. So, in 1994, Roz Savitt was hired as NCCADV's first paid lobbyist. Membership dues and donations covered the fees for the payment of the lobbyist.

One of the first legislative matters addressed by NCCADV through its new lobbyist was an amendment to Chapter 50B. The statute was amended to allow magistrates to issue protective orders in certain situations. Advocates attempted to have the statute amended to ensure the availability of protective orders for survivors of same-sex domestic violence, but were denied. Also during this time frame, state funding for domestic violence programs across the state was increased to \$20,000 per program.

Advocates also responded to calls for action on a federal level, and in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act was placed as part of the crime bill in both the House and Senate.

NCCADV continued to sponsor statewide conferences, this time in Charlotte in 1994. Topics began to diversify and offer information on a range of services. Kerry Lobel returned to the state and provided training to help support NCCADV's technical assistance programming.

In 1995, Interlace opened the first transitional housing program for battered women in North

Carolina. Prior to this time, the only housing options for battered women were offered through domestic violence shelters, safe home networks, or homeless shelters. Interlace's transitional housing program provided a vehicle for survivors to address both short- and long-term goals.

The same year, the relief authorized in Chapter 50B expanded again, and included provisions that defendants could be ordered to attend batterer's treatment programs or be prohibited from purchasing firearms. In addition, a bond law passed requiring a judge, rather than a magistrate, to set bond in certain domestic violence cases within 48 hours of arrest.

NCCADV gained national attention when it published the first *Project Esperanza: A Guide to Working with Battered Latinas* manual. This was the first guide produced to help programs who were serving Latina survivors of domestic violence and was the first publication of its type in the nation. It was distributed to all of the domestic violence programs and community health centers in North Carolina and by request to programs in other states.

In addition, the Coalition produced the first edition of the court advocacy manual, *...And Justice for All*, which served as a guidebook for advocates in local programs who were doing more and more work to help survivors navigate the legal system. As time passed and laws changed, this manual has been revised and updated twice in subsequent years.

NCCADV hosted a three day statewide conference in Raleigh in 1995, which included a legislative day in which advocates lobbied for further increases in state funding for programs and to expand the relief offered in Chapter 50B.

1997



..... A Communities of Color Specialist Position was first established at NCCADV in 1997 to focus on the specific needs of people of color who survived domestic violence and to assist programs in becoming better equipped to meet those needs.

Conference topics included working with child protective services, examining the impact of domestic violence on children, and Lydia Walker spoke on empowerment within the shelter. Over 100 people attended.

Concentrated lobbying efforts were successful, and in 1996, state funding for domestic violence programs increased to \$500,000, which was distributed equally among existing programs. Another revision to Chapter 50B expanded the list of persons entitled to file for a protective order to include parties with a child in common, and to allow protective orders to be extended beyond the original expiration date when good cause is shown. To respond to the problem of batterers using the criminal justice system to harass survivors, and to comply with the Violence Against Women Act, the legislature enacted a prohibition against mutual protective orders unless certain conditions are met. In addition, a bill passed which required judges to consider domestic violence in making custody decisions.

As NC worked to comply with changing federal regulations around the 1996 welfare reform, domestic violence advocates struggled to be sure that there was an exemption to protect survivors of domestic violence. The Family Violence Option allowed domestic violence to be recognized as a

barrier to meeting the requirements of Work First and gave victims extra time and other resources that would enable them to comply with the new regulations.

NCCADV maintained its focus on training and connecting member programs, and in 1996, offered a series of training events on a variety of topics, including Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse, and Shelter Services in three locations across the state.

Kathy Hodges left NCCADV in 1996, and the Board of Directors began the search for the next Executive Director. In 1997, Karen Luciano was hired as the Executive Director of NCCADV.

By 1997, the grassroots activism network established through the Coalition was a formidable force for policy advocacy in the state. In this year, state funding for domestic violence programs increased by \$1 million in the non-recurring budget. Again, Chapter 50B was expanded to include current or former household members and persons in a heterosexual dating relationship; violation of a protective order was made a crime. Advocates again worked to gain protection for same-sex victims of domestic violence, but were denied. The household member provision was used to secure some relief for victims who had shared a home with their same-sex partner, but this provision is not uniformly enforced across jurisdictions.

The Coalition continued its commitment to addressing multiple forms of oppression, and in 1997, hired Alma Davis as its first Communities of Color Specialist to focus on the specific needs of people of color who survived domestic violence and to assist programs in becoming better equipped to meet those needs. In addition, Proj-



1998

ect Esperanza sponsored a series of workshops around the state to equip advocates to better utilize its Guide to Serving Battered Latinas.

While these issues were being addressed on a statewide level, another local issue of statewide significance was brewing. Helpmate of Madison County in the western part of the state received a grant to purchase a domestic violence shelter. Residents in the county contested the zoning of the shelter, citing many of the same concerns expressed during the protests against the Albemarle Hopeline shelter several years earlier. In this instance, the county zoning board ruled that the domestic violence shelter was a commercial, rather than residential property, and therefore should not be located in a residential neighborhood. A court battle ensued, and eventually the NC State Supreme Court ruled that domestic violence shelters do not have to be zoned as commercial property and are not subject to the same ordinances governing commercial or government-owned facilities.

During 1998, attention of state government turned to domestic violence in a new way. Governor James Hunt appointed the Domestic Violence Task Force, and declared that a local domestic violence program should serve every county in the state. Just preceding and following this period, North Carolina had one of the largest expansions of its existing domestic violence programs. In addition, the General Assembly passed the Crime Victims Rights Act, as well as a statute providing that victims of domestic violence with a protective order may file for unemployment insurance if the reason for leaving work was due to domestic violence.

Also during this period, NCCADV hired Anne Winner to serve as their lobbyist. Anne helped

NCCADV to advocate on subsequent domestic violence legislation until 2006.

In 1999, the Governor’s Task Force was reorganized to become the Domestic Violence Commission (which was later consolidated with the Council for Women in 2001). Commission members represented a broad cross-section of disciplines and served to inform the Governor and the legislature about domestic violence issues.

Also this year, the legislature deemed that full faith and credit must be given to out-of-state protective orders and warrantless arrest crimes were expanded to include assault by pointing a gun and violation of a protective order. In addition, new funding was available to domestic violence programs through the Temporary Aid for Needy Families funding, which provided \$1 million in the state for domestic violence prevention and education.

After a period of vacancy following the departure of Karen Luciano, Patty Neal Dorian was hired as Executive Director of NCCADV in 1998. The Coalition embarked on a process of internal strengthening and capacity building. As local programs began to rely more strongly on NCCADV for technical assistance, the Coalition’s staff worked to solidify and enhance services to member programs. Mary Beth Loucks-Sorrell was hired as the first full-time Technical Assistance Specialist. She worked on a dramatic expansion of NCCADV’s Resource Library and the Coalition’s capacity to respond to the needs of local programs. With the addition of this full-time staff position, NCCADV gained the ability to provide more on-site assistance to local programs that were in their formative stages.

2000



Through venues such as region meetings and NCCADV statewide membership meetings, programs discussed the specific needs of their local communities. A recurring theme became the pressing and persistent needs found in rural communities. Advocates, such as Pat Youngblood from Albemarle Hopeline and Willow Johnson from Helpmate of Madison County, began to explore avenues to address these issues specific to rural communities. Specific areas of concern included housing, transportation, legal services and education. At a region meeting in the western part of the state, advocates posed the idea of forming a fourth caucus of NCCADV which would focus on the issues common to the needs of rural survivors and the programs that served them. At the NCCADV 2000 conference, *Back to the Future: Reclaiming Advocacy*, programs voted, and the fourth caucus was formed. The Rural Caucus expressed its initial mission as providing a network for the support and enhancement of services to end domestic violence in rural areas.

In November 2000, NCCADV launched its first website, www.nccadv.org, with resources for service providers and survivors. During its first year, the website hosted almost 3,000 visits. In just 5 years, this number grew to 85,191 visits per year. Over time the website expanded and has become an invaluable tool for advocates in local programs.

Also in 2000, the Coalition solidified its commitment to training through the formation of the Training Institute. Through the Training Institute, a calendar of statewide training events was offered, and NCCADV became firmly established as the authority in the state on the issue of domestic violence. Marie Brodie was hired as the first Training Specialist for NCCADV, and formed an initial training calendar and new curriculum

which included “Domestic Violence Basics”, offered at least annually after this point. In order to allow planning time and predictability for member programs, NCCADV established the tradition of offering a statewide conference in the spring of even-numbered years.

During its inaugural year, the Training Institute provided training to over 1,900 people. Training Institute staff collaborated with the NC Department of Social Services to provide training on the new Family Violence Waiver Option, which was designed to help WorkFirst participants reduce economic barriers produced by family violence.

• In 2000, the NCCADV formed Training Institute, and offered a calendar of statewide training events.

In addition to the collaboration around WorkFirst training, other public policy work included collaborations with the NC Council for Women, Domestic Violence Commission, and NC Providers of Abuser Treatment to design standards for abuser treatment programs in the state. Prior to this point, there were no regulations concerning content, length or procedures for abuser treatment programs. These standards later went through a rigorous public review process before finally being adopted in 2004.

NCCADV’s work to improve services to communities of color across the state took a significant leap forward beginning in 2000. Through the support of a Violence Against Women Act grant, funding was again established for the Communities of Color Specialist Position, which was designed to help programs provide better services to people of color who survive domestic violence. Marché Clarke served as



2000

Communities of Color Specialist and was formative in expanding the project. Also, the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust provided three years' funding for Project Esperanza. This funding allowed NCCADV to make the work of Project Esperanza available statewide, offering a series of grassroots trainings to enhance advocacy skills of community members and to improve services available to Latino survivors through domestic violence programs.

In late 2000, North Carolina became a participating state in the Silent Witness Program, a national program comprised of visual, traveling memorials to domestic violence homicide victims.

In order to accommodate its growing staff and programs, NCCADV relocated once again in December 2000, moving into a larger office space in downtown Durham. The Coalition would remain in this space until future growth dictated a move to an even larger space in early 2006.

NCCADV continued to maintain a full legislative calendar, and to fight for the funding needs of local programs, for protection of survivors and for accountability for batterers. In 2001, advocacy efforts ensured that the additional \$1 million in state funding was moved into the recurring budget. In addition, Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) funding of \$1.8 million for domestic violence services for WorkFirst participants and \$900,000 included for prevention and education was secured. The testimonial privilege law was passed to provide more confidentiality for communications between victims and counselors at domestic violence and sexual assault programs. Chapter 50B and stalking laws were expanded to include cases

of serious harassment, and the bond law was expanded to include certain felony crimes of domestic violence. Batterers were subject to increased penalties for violating protective orders and for stalking, and victims were allowed to receive an extension of protective orders entered by magistrates so that they did not have to return every 72 hours if a judge was unavailable.

In this same year, NCCADV began work on the new statewide Child Well Being and Domestic Violence Task Force, which was formed to address the co-occurrence of child abuse and intimate partner violence. The final recommendations of the Task Force were issued more than a year later, and included suggestions for closer coordination between victim services programs, child protective services agencies and law enforcement agencies.

In recognition of the diversity within the community of women who partner with women, the Lesbian Caucus received approval from the NCCADV membership to change its name in the NCCADV bylaws to become the Lesbian/Bisexual Women's Caucus. Around this time, the Coalition also increased its public outreach to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities, and participated in NC PRIDE, a statewide event celebrating LGBT communities.

In reaction to several domestic violence-related homicides at Fort Bragg during 2002, NCCADV worked diligently to build strong relationships with military institutions in the state. Several awareness-raising events were coordinated, and the Coalition participated in several community forums, hearings and committee meetings to help improve the state's response to victims of domestic violence who were members of military families. Broad media attention to these

2002



homicides also led the Coalition to increase its press contacts and laid groundwork for later media outreach initiatives.

Also, the groundswell of attention related to a high profile triple homicide in which Valerie Michelle Gates' daughter, a family friend and the friend's child were murdered in Orange County,

- To enhance the Coalition's statewide policy work, NCCADV hired its first Public Policy Specialist in 2002.

brought to light the need to coordinate state-wide tracking of all domestic violence-related homicides. Beginning in 2002, NCCADV worked through its member network and allies around the state to start the process of compiling a list of victim names of those murdered in domestic violence-related homicides. NCCADV was the only organization in the state tracking this type of information. To honor the memory of homicide victims, NCCADV held a memorial tree planting ceremony in Durham's Central Park. Several remembrance events have been held at the tree since.

The Coalition's collaborative work with statewide partners in designing policy initiatives and legislative advocacy initiatives had been steadily increasing for more than 15 years, with a noticeable trend in growth since work done on the Family Violence Option. To increase and consolidate the Coalition's statewide policy work, Beth Froehling was hired in 2002 as NCCADV's first Public Policy Specialist, utilizing funding from the US Department of Justice. The work of the Public Policy Specialist is to supplement and direct the legislative advocacy efforts of NCCADV's lobbyist, to respond to technical

assistance needs of court advocates and to ensure that domestic violence is addressed in statewide public policy efforts.

- The Coalition's collaborative work with statewide partners in designing policy initiatives and legislative advocacy initiatives had been steadily increasing for more than 15 years, with a noticeable trend in growth since work done on the Family Violence Option.

Several pieces of public policy work were completed during 2002. Notably, NCCADV supported the NC Attorney General's Office creation of an Address Confidentiality Program to protect the confidential locations of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking who relocate within the state by providing a substitute address in all public records. In addition, the General Assembly passed a bill ensuring compliance with VAWA 2000 by not charging victims any fees associated with filing for a protective order. Finally, the initial work done on the abuser treatment standards was moved forward when rulemaking authority was granted to the Domestic Violence Commission for standards for court referred abuser treatment programs.

The NCCADV 2002 statewide conference, *Imagining Peace: One Vision, Many Voices*, firmly established the NCCADV conference as a biennial event. The conference featured the first Above and Beyond Awards Ceremony. The purpose of the ceremony is to honor and reward a domestic violence advocate, a domestic violence program and a legislative advocate who went above and beyond to work for survivors of domestic



2002

violence in NC. Inaugural recipients were: Annette Lytle and Renee McGill-Cox (Peace Awards for Domestic Violence Advocacy), Albemarle Hopeline (Program Excellence), and Kathy Hodges (Legislative Award).

In October of 2002, NCCADV was one of nine states in the country selected to receive funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through their DELTA Project. The DELTA Project focuses on primary prevention of intimate partner violence. Jo Ann Harris was hired as NCCADV's first Coordinated Community Response Specialist, and in this role she provided support to local programs that were working to improve the collaboration between local partners in the prevention of domestic violence. The DELTA Project also allowed NCCADV to act for the first time as a pass-through agent for funding to local programs. Four sub-grantees were selected to act as pilot implementation sites for the DELTA Project in North Carolina, and they agreed to create models in their communities to prevent domestic violence. The initial four grantee programs were Albemarle Hopeline, Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services, Domestic Violence Shelter and Services, and the 30th Judicial District Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault Alliance.

In the spring of 2002, Patty Neal Dorian left the position of Executive Director with NCCADV, and the Board of Directors began the process of searching for the next director. Mary Beth Loucks-Sorrell was selected to serve as Interim Director.

Because the Coalition recognized the importance of linking the work to end domestic violence to the larger anti-oppression movement, which includes anti-racism work, the board and staff

⋮ In October of 2002, NCCADV was one of nine states in the country selected to receive funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through their DELTA Project.

agreed to begin an internal process of dismantling racism. This process recognizes that the needs and voices of people of color often go unheard and seeks to reduce the cultural, personal and systemic barriers that oppress people of color. Also in 2002, NCCADV, in collaboration with Hope Harbor Home in Brunswick County, hosted its first *Weaving a System of Change* event, a statewide conference designed to specifically focus on survivors and advocates who are people of color. Because of its success, this event was a jumping-off place for conferences held in later years that were designed to address the same topic.

In June 2002, NCCADV began organizing an initiative to help communities of faith strengthen their responses to domestic violence. Several statewide meetings were held to address the collaboration between domestic violence programs and communities of faith. These conversations were the beginning of an ongoing project which evolved into regular training for faith leaders and domestic violence advocates on effective methods for working together to strengthen safety for survivors in communities.

Legislative successes in 2003 included a hard-won victory that ensured the mandatory prohibition of firearms in high-risk protective order cases that provides for the surrender of firearms to the sheriff's office for the life of the protective order. Further clarification was

2003



provided to Chapter 50B to allow victims to renew protective orders multiple times for good cause and to ensure that consent orders are treated the same as orders entered pursuant to a hearing. Penalties were enhanced for committing serious assaults within sight of a minor child, and the unemployment insurance law was amended so that victims are not required to obtain a protective order to qualify for benefits.

The News and Observer in Raleigh published a series of articles which examined prosecutions and dismissals of Assault on a Female and Communicating Threats charges in the state. These articles had a strong impact on the public's consciousness about domestic violence, and were an inspiration for the formation of the House Select Committee on Domestic Violence, which would later produce broad and sweeping reforms to the state's domestic violence laws.

In 2003, Marché Clarke was hired as NCCADV's Executive Director. Upon her departure later that year, Mary Beth Loucks-Sorrell was again selected as Interim Director. In 2004, Mary Beth Loucks-Sorrell became the Executive Director of the Coalition.

Also in 2003, NCCADV launched Project Rainbow Net, a grassroots effort to improve response to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survivors of domestic violence. The Project was formed largely through the energy of friends and family members of a gay man murdered by his partner in the Triad area and through the support of the Lesbian/Bisexual Women's Caucus. Start-up funding was provided through the Gill Foundation, and NCCADV offered a series of statewide trainings about domestic violence and services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survivors of domestic violence.

Project Rainbow Net launched its own website, www.projectrainbownet.org, which was linked to NCCADV's website at www.nccadv.org.

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NCCADV hosted a second *Weaving a System of Change* conference in 2003 to highlight the work of people of color in the movement. This conference expanded on the work of the previous *Weaving* conference and was designed to promote leadership development among women of color who were working to end domestic violence.

The Coalition collaborated with the NC Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission and the NC Attorney General's Office to host a *Violence in the Workplace* summit in 2003 in Raleigh. More than 170 business leaders attended this event, which represented landmark collaboration between private industry, non-profit organizations and government agencies. The purpose of the Summit was to develop management tools to combat domestic violence in the workplace.

In 2004, historic legislation passed on behalf of survivors of domestic violence in North Carolina as a result of the proposals of the House Select Committee on Domestic Violence, co-chaired by Representative Sherrill (Buncombe Co.) and Representative McLawhorn (Pitt Co.). This legislation, HB 1354, offered broad changes to the state's domestic violence laws, including the creation of a new felony crime of non-fatal stran-

2004

gulation; the requirement that judges consider custody in domestic violence protective order cases and that they must consider the factors listed; protection against employment discrimination for victims seeking a domestic violence protective order; warrantless arrest authority for violation of pretrial release conditions; state law conformity with federal law so that all felons are prohibited from possessing firearms; increased funding for legal services to provide representation to victims of domestic violence; training for law enforcement, judges, and other court personnel; treatment required for offenders placed on probation; and tracking of domestic violence criminal cases. In addition, state funding was increased by \$2 million for domestic violence programs for a total of \$4,682,500. Because of the wide scope of issues addressed in the bill, the impact of this legislation on domestic violence in the state was the greatest since the passage of the pro se option for domestic violence protective orders.

NCCADV's 2004 conference, *Generations: Celebrating the Strength of Women*, highlighted a wide range of topics, including prevention, public relations, empowerment and women's spirituality. The Coalition also continued its Above and Beyond awards. The 2004 recipients were: Jane Taylor (Peace Award for Domestic Violence Advocacy), 30th Judicial Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Alliance (Program Excellence) and Will Polk (Legislative Award). In addition to the Above and Beyond Awards, three outstanding programs were recognized for their exemplary work. Family Violence Prevention Center (Orange County), Wesley Shelter (Wilson County), Interlace (Buncombe County) each received a \$10,000 Community TIES grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation of North Carolina.

In October 2004, NCCADV presented Legislator of the Year Awards to Representative Sherrill and Senator Rand for their leadership and longstanding support of domestic violence issues in the legislature. Representative Sherrill's award was presented at an Open House at Helpmate in Asheville, and Senator Rand's award was presented at the CARE Center's Appreciation Night in Fayetteville.

In May of 2005, NCCADV continued the work begun in 2002 and 2003 by the *Weaving a System of Change* conference by hosting the Engineers

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of Change: Women of Color Institute. This three day event explored the contributions and challenges of women of color who are domestic violence advocates and allies. In addition to a host of statewide and national speakers, the Institute featured the Engineers of Change Awards, which honored the important contributions of women of color to the domestic violence movement. Awards were given in multiple categories, and recipients were: Elsie Bibbs-Holmes (Distinguished Leadership, 6 or more years), Veronica Denise Lucas (Distinguished Leadership, 5 or less years), Renee McGill-Cox and Carol Patterson (Excellence in Victim Services), Regina White (Work and Advocacy with Children), Lydia Baldwin (Volunteerism), Cecilia Henaine de Davis (Community Collabo-

2005



ration and Partnership Building), Patricia Dean (Dismantling Racism), Representative Earline Parmon (Legislative and Policy Action).

Another internal structure change occurred during 2005. The Battered and Formerly Battered Women's Caucus, which had experienced several years of steady growth, voted to change its name to SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships). Important work happening within the caucus included the formation of a survivors' speakers' bureau known as VOICES, who began to travel around the state and speak about the impact of domestic violence. The work of SOAR and the VOICES speakers' bureau became an integral part of NCCADV's Training Institute, helping to ensure that the voices of survivors remained the guiding force of the Coalition's public work.

In 2005, North Carolina became the 2nd state in the country to enact comprehensive tenancy laws to protect victims. NCCADV worked with Senator Cowell (Wake Co.) to introduce Senate Bill 1029 which prohibits discrimination by landlords against victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking; provides for the changing of locks on a victim's dwelling; and allows a victim to terminate a lease early if relocation is necessary to escape from an abuser. Senate Bill 1029 also enhances Chapter 50B by allowing protective orders to be renewed for two years at a time, requiring protective orders to be served to school principals when a perpetrator is ordered to stay away from the school, and closing the loophole for the return of firearms to a perpetrator when there are pending criminal charges with the same victim.

In addition, NCCADV successfully supported the following legislation during 2005 on behalf of

survivors of domestic violence and their children: State funding in the amount of \$4,682,500 to be distributed through the Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission grants to all recognized domestic violence programs; TANF funding in the amount of \$1.2 million for domestic violence services to WorkFirst participants; the creation of a permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Domestic Violence that will examine domestic violence issues in order to make recommendations to the General Assembly on ways to reduce incidences of domestic violence and to provide additional assistance to victims; an increase of \$5 million in the Housing Trust Fund for a total of \$8 million to increase the availability of affordable housing in support of the Campaign for Housing Carolina; and the ability of the court to terminate the parental rights of a parent who murders the other parent of a child.

In recognition of his tireless support for survivors of domestic violence, NC Attorney General Roy Cooper was awarded the first annual RBC Centura Men for Change Award in October 2005. This award was presented during a statewide training event which highlighted the intersection of oppressions and the role of men in ending violence against women. Attorney General Cooper was selected as the award's recipient because of his support for several key pieces of domestic violence legislation, most notably the Address Confidentiality Program and the felony strangulation provisions of House Bill 1354. The award presentation was coupled with the unveiling of North Carolina's first statewide public awareness campaign designed to engage men and boys in the efforts to end violence against women, which was sponsored by Verizon Wireless.



2006

In the period between 2004 and 2006, NCCADV experienced another great swell of internal growth. New staff members were added, and the Coalition also began to contract with several key players across the state to further its mission. To help keep up with this growth, the office was relocated again to West Main Street in downtown Durham.

⋮ A landmark project completed in 2006 was the development of a Best Practices Manual for Domestic Violence Programs in North Carolina.

A landmark project completed in 2006 was the development of a Best Practices Manual for Domestic Violence Programs in NC. This manual serves as a “how-to” guide for all aspects of program development and operation for domestic violence programs in the state, and was created with the generous donation of an original text from Karen Parker-Thompson and through a rigorous review process which gathered the input of over 50 survivors, advocates and allies.

Through a generous donation from Sergeant John Guard of the Pitt County Sheriff’s Office, the Anitra Allen Coburn fund was established in 2006. Anitra Allen Coburn was a victim of domestic violence who was killed by her batterer in 1996 after he took her hostage and had a standoff with police. Sgt. Guard was one of the law enforcement officers present when she was murdered. He became an avid domestic violence advocate, travelling around the state and the nation educating other law enforcement officers about the issue. He was honored in 2006 with a Sunshine Peace Award for his work,

and chose to designate his donation to NCCADV for the establishment of the Anitra Allen Coburn fund, which provides emergency financial assistance to survivors. In 2009, Chief John Guard was honored with NCCADV’s Men for Change award.

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The year 2006 also marked the 25th Anniversary of the Coalition, including its original incarnation as NCADVP. To honor this historical event, NCCADV hosted its biennial conference, *25 Years of Advocacy: NCCADV 2006 Conference and Anniversary Celebration*. Conference events highlighted the work of survivors in the movement, and honored the contributions of the mothers of the movement who gave birth to this work in North Carolina. The Above and Beyond Awards recognized the work of Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center of Chatham County (Excellence Award), Sergeant John Guard from Pitt County Sheriff’s Office (Above and Beyond Award), Heather Thompson (Legislative Award) and Jackie Goodwyn from Families Living Violence Free (Peace Award).

The Men for Change Award recipients for 2006 were Barry Bryant of the Governor’s Crime Commission and Joe Marinello from UNC-Charlotte.

REACH of Jackson County, in Sylva, was the site of a domestic violence homicide in 2006. Bonnie Woodring and her son were residing in the shelter when her estranged husband broke

2007



in and shot her, then fled the scene. He evaded police and later committed suicide. This tragedy stirred renewed interest in ensuring safety within North Carolina’s domestic violence shelters, and led to the formation of a study group regarding shelter security. In 2010, a bill was passed which provides immunity for domestic violence shelters for harmful acts committed on their premises.

In 2007, Rita Anita Linger was hired as the Executive Director, where she served until 2009. During this time, NCCADV introduced a three-tiered certificate program which allows advocates to receive diplomas denoting their training at the level of Advocate’s Institute, Advanced Advocate’s Institute, or Manager and Director’s Institute. The Advocate’s Institute quickly became one of the most sought-after training programs in NCCADV’s history, as it offers a thorough overview of the dynamics of domestic violence, advocacy skills and basic legal information.

Men for Change Award recipients in 2007 were Sgt. Brad Johnson from the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office and Dr. John Stewart from Laurel OB/GYN in Asheville. Event sponsors were Verizon Wireless and RBC Bank, companies which have each shown long-term commitment to working against domestic violence.

..... In 2007, a law passed establishing a tracking mechanism through the Attorney General’s office for homicides involving relationships as defined by the domestic violence statute in North Carolina.

Colleen Kochanek began to serve as NCCADV’s lobbyist in 2007. That same year, a law passed establishing a tracking mechanism through the Attorney General’s office for homicides involving relationships as defined by the domestic violence statute in North Carolina. When compared with data from the Violent Death Reporting System and NCCADV’s tracking of domestic violence homicides, this data from the Attorney General’s office help to paint a clearer picture of the number of deaths attributable to domestic violence in our state each year.

..... Also in 2007, NCCADV introduced a three-tiered certificate program which allows advocates to receive diplomas denoting their training at the level of Advocate’s Institute, Advanced Advocate’s Institute, or Manager and Director’s Institute. The Advocate’s Institute quickly became one of the most sought-after training programs in NCCADV’s history.

To reflect its commitment to serving all areas of the state, NCCADV opened a Western Regional Office in 2008. This expansion afforded the Coalition a greater presence in the western part of the state and resulted in more training events in the area. It also allowed NCCADV the opportunity to expand its staff to hire residents of the Western North Carolina region.

The year 2008 also marked another biennial statewide conference, entitled *Building and Sustaining the Movement to Protect Families in NC*.



2008~2009

The focus of the conference was on coordinated community responses, and workshops were tailored to enhance collaboration skills among domestic violence programs, child welfare providers, law enforcement and court personnel. Dr. Ellen Pence, one of the founders of the domestic violence movement in the United States, was a keynote presenter. The Program Excellence Award was renamed in her honor and became the Ellen Pence Excellence Award. During the Above and Beyond Awards Ceremony, REACH of Jackson County received the inaugural Ellen Pence Excellence Award. Additional awards were given to Jessie Croom (Peace Award), Beth Moracco (Above and Beyond Award) and Fran Bumgarner (Legislative Award). Later in 2008, the annual Men for Change awards ceremony celebrated the work

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of Benjamin David and Jonathan David, twin brothers who were District Attorney and Assistant District Attorney (respectively) in New Hanover County. They were acknowledged for their leadership in addressing violence against women, which was exemplified by their work to prosecute Tyrone Delgado, a batterer and serial rapist who had eluded prosecution for more than 9 years.

As a reflection of the growing energy in the movement to address prevention of domestic

violence, the *10 Year Plan to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence in North Carolina* was completed and published in 2009. The Plan was the culmination of 6 years of work by more than

⋮ *The 10 Year Plan to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence in North Carolina* was completed and published in 2009. The Plan was the culmination of 6 years of work by more than 33 stakeholders from across the state, who participated in the NC DELTA State Steering Committee.

33 stakeholders from across the state, who participated in the NC DELTA State Steering Committee. The DELTA project is a CDC-funded, multi-state collaborative aimed at developing strategies for the long-term prevention of intimate partner violence. The work started in North Carolina in 2002, and in 2006, the focus expanded to include statewide as well as local planning efforts. Dr. Beth Moracco was selected as the Empowerment Evaluator on the project, and worked diligently to ensure that evaluation measures were built into the plan as it was designed. The Plan has four strategic directions where prevention efforts will be aimed: parenting skills and relationship norms, education, community engagement and prevention system capacity. It is designed to reach people where they live, work, worship and play with the goal of promoting the development of healthy relationships and reducing the oppressions which contribute to domestic violence.

The School Violence Prevention Act was also passed in 2009. This hard-won legislation requires schools to adopt policies prohibiting

2010~2011



bullying or harassing behaviors and to implement strategies to promote violence prevention. Research literature shows a consistent link between bullying in schools and perpetrating domestic violence in adulthood, as well as many other negative outcomes. Another notable piece of legislation in 2009 amended the protective order statute to enable the inclusion of pets as specific property that can be requested by the plaintiff.

NCCADV evaluated its leadership structure, and in 2010, decided to adopt a model with two Co-Executive Directors. This shared leadership configuration was in place on the board level since the Coalition's inception and is reflective of its commitment to reduction of hierarchical distributions of power. April Burgess-Johnson and Beth Froehling were selected as Co-Executive Directors. Both had served on NCCADV staff for several years prior to assuming these roles.

NCCADV hosted its biennial conference in 2010, entitled *The Building Blocks of Peace*. The conference had a primary focus of creation of effective services for children exposed to domestic violence. Honorees at the 2010 Above and Beyond Awards Ceremony included Jo Sanders from Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services in Chatham County (Peace Award), Oasis in Watauga County (Ellen Pence Excellence Award), Vernetta Cockerham (Legislative Award) and Elbie Stiles of REACH in Macon County (Above and Beyond Award). Later that year, the 2010 Men for Change Award was presented to Manuel Colorado of Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services in Chatham County for his work on their Men for Family Peace project and engagement of Latino communities to prevent domestic violence.

Dialogue with the NC Division of Social Services during and immediately after the 2010 conference sparked the expansion of NCCADV's services to include a full children's program, launched in 2011. The Children's Advocacy and Service Enhancements (CASE) project will disseminate information about trauma-informed and evidence-based services for children impacted by domestic violence and will also support best

⋮ Dialogue with the NC Division of Social Services during and immediately after the 2010 conference sparked the expansion of NCCADV's services to include a full children's program, launched in 2011.

practices within domestic violence shelters, such as the utilization of criminal background checks on child-serving staff members.

Through the leadership and partnership with NC-based funders, including the Governor's Crime Commission, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, the NC Division of Social Services and the NC Council for Women, NCCADV and NCCASA collaborated to launch the statewide Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Data tracking system in 2011. This system is designed to track service data and outcomes for domestic violence and sexual assault programs and to help to standardize the way that service provision is tracked across the state. One primary goal is to help identify areas for potential growth in the movement and to support local programs to reduce the administrative burden associated with data collection.

2011

The year 2011 is NCCADV's 30th year of service to North Carolina. On August 18, 2011, NCCADV celebrated its 30th Anniversary with an event to honor advocates who have been engaged in work to end domestic violence for 30 years or more. As part of the celebration, Kit Gruelle, a survivor, advocate, trainer and long-time supporter of NCCADV, was honored by renaming the Peace Award in her honor, to become the Kit Gruelle Peace Award.

This movement, which is based on the experiences of courageous people who have survived abuse and trauma that can be so disheartening, has been filled with tremendous hope and growth. It is a testament to the endurance and compassion of the thousands of survivors, advocates and allies that this movement has continued to evolve as a vital voice for the promotion of peace, equality and justice within homes and communities in North Carolina.

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