Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

2012 Annual Report

Highlights and Accomplishments from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012
Dear Friend,

I often reflect on how lucky I am to be part of an amazing organization dedicated to making the world a better place for all. For the past ten years, with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, DCADV has been part of a national effort to develop an understanding of primary prevention as it relates to intimate partner violence and to engage in initiatives that promote the prevention of domestic and sexual violence here in Delaware. True primary prevention requires changing the social norms and values that support violence in our homes and communities and reinforce gender inequality and oppression in all its forms. It requires a willingness to examine our own beliefs, to engage in dialogue about what healthy relationships look like, and to think broadly about well-being as it pertains to individuals, our communities, and society as a whole.

This emphasis on prevention is expanding across the country, and DCADV has been incorporating this message into all facets of our work at the local, state, and national levels. For example, our policy team partnered with many allies from around the state to create Guidelines for Responding to Teen Dating and Sexual Violence in Delaware Schools, a project of Delaware’s Child Protection Accountability Commission and, as part of the DELTA collaborative, our training and prevention team helped develop a Healthy Relationships Curriculum for middle school students.

Over the past year, more than a quarter of our training hours were focused on prevention, including an initiative at the University of Delaware that incorporated prevention and healthy relationships content into the Domestic Violence Policy and Prevention course taught by DCADV as part of the new DV Services and Prevention Concentration and Minor in the Department of Women and Gender Studies. Prevention was also the focus of a DELTA conference and of training for high school and middle school teachers. Prevention is routinely woven into more intervention-focused presentations as well, such as training for home visitors, medical professionals, and domestic violence advocates.

In addition, prevention is highlighted in many of our public awareness activities, ranging from the ongoing “Check Yourself” public information campaign to the creation of facilitation materials by Delaware MEN as they begin their outreach initiative to men in the larger community.

Finally, over the past year I had the great privilege to serve on the most recent iteration of the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women, which focused its work on children and teens exposed to or experiencing domestic and sexual violence. This group chose to highlight three areas it considered most critical: prevention, trauma-informed services, and evaluation. The committee’s just-released report is available at www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/nac-rpt.pdf and contains many great recommendations for addressing and preventing violence in our homes and communities.

As you will see in this report, primary prevention has become a core part of our work here at the Coalition, touching all aspects of our policy, training, and public awareness efforts. But the change must go deeper than what can be demonstrated by activities and events. A belief in the essential importance of primary prevention leads to a sense of agency and an understanding of the importance of engaging in social change work. During this past fiscal year, DCADV launched a strategic planning process that aims to make our organization an even more powerful agent of prevention and social change. Beginning with our annual staff and board retreats, we outlined a strategic vision for the organization and created a Prevention and Social Change Committee to help guide us forward. This effort is still unfolding, but we are excited about the possibilities as we build capacity among staff, board members, volunteers, and community partners to engage in the critical work of stopping violence before it starts. Please join us!

In Peace,

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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The **Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence** is a statewide, nonprofit organization of domestic violence agencies and individuals working to eliminate domestic violence through:

- Acting as an educational and informational resource to our member agencies and the community;
- Advocating for domestic violence concerns in Delaware;
- Providing a strong, unified statewide voice for victims of domestic violence and their children, domestic violence programs, and victim service providers.

DCADV works in partnership with direct service providers, government officials, and business and community partners to promote equality in relationships while striving to alter the social conditions that allow violence and abuse to occur.

DCADV’s focus areas include **Policy and Systems Advocacy, Public Awareness, Training and Certification, and Prevention and Social Change**. On an ongoing basis, DCADV staff receive and respond to requests for technical assistance, referrals, and resources from advocates, victims and survivors, allied organizations, and other state coalitions. Staff also attend numerous committee and task force meetings and participate in conference and training opportunities in an effort to bring national and local expertise to members and partners.

DCADV is a membership organization made up of four Member Organizations and 132 Supporting Organizations and Individuals. DCADV’s four Member Organizations provide direct services to adult victims of domestic violence and/or operate shelters for battered women. Member Organizations support the mission, goals, and philosophy of DCADV and work with DCADV to create an environment in which those victimized by domestic violence become empowered.
The proportion of students experiencing verbal abuse by their dating partner increased over grades 6-12.

Did You Know?

- The rate of Delaware teens who report experiencing physical IPV increased by 117% for teens from age 15 to 18.
- 1 in 4 Delaware 8th graders report witnessing domestic violence in their homes in the past year.

Source: Teen Dating Violence Report
DCADV’s primary prevention program, DELTA (Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliance), funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the past ten years, has been recognized nationally for its efforts to build Delaware’s capacity to prevent domestic violence before it ever occurs, with an emphasis on addressing cultural values and societal norms.

DELTA project partners continued work based on a comprehensive statewide plan for the primary prevention of intimate partner violence in the following four priority areas:

- Education of Individuals & Systems
- Engagement of Nontraditional Systems
- Improving & Expanding Data Collection & Surveillance
- Transforming Cultural Values & Societal Norms

The DELTA Project’s Prevention Subcommittee, the Department of Education, and the Department of Services for Children, Youth, and their Families sponsored the prevention conference “Racing to the Top Against Media Messages: How They Hinder the Next Generation” in September. Senator Chris Coons offered remarks to the audience of teachers, youth workers, community organizers, and domestic violence advocates, and Mark Tappan, author of Packaging Boyhood, served as keynote speaker.

DCADV and DELTA partners, with support from the Department of Education, hosted their second annual High School Healthy Relationships Unit teacher training for more than 35 teachers and youth educators from across the state in October.

DELTA staff expanded the high school unit and completed a standards-based Middle School Healthy Relationships Unit that supports the “Learning-Focused Strategies” framework of Delaware’s Department of Education. A core group of middle school teachers were trained in January and have piloted the unit for evaluation, with plans to launch it in the 2012-2013 school year. Senator Coons provided a video endorsement of the work and the importance of teachers’ roles in modeling and promoting healthy relationships and respectful schools.

Delaware MEN (Men’s Education Network) prepared a facilitation guide and training videos that members plan to use in 2013 as part of guided discussions with community groups in their mission to involve men in promoting healthy, safe relationships. The group previewed their presentation to members of DCADV’s task forces in March, seeking the guidance of survivors and women of color before publicly launching their community education efforts.

As part of DCADV’s strategic planning process, DCADV’s Board of Directors created a Prevention and Social Change Committee, the first board committee to focus on organizational capacity around primary prevention and social change. This committee is charged with guiding the Coalition’s strategic vision of enhancing our work at every level regarding prevention and social change.

DCADV contracted with UD’s Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies for the development of a Delaware Teen Dating Violence Report and Analysis, including assessment of new questions added to the 2010 Delaware School Survey at DCADV’s recommendation. See page 3 for highlights of the report that have helped inform the focus and key concepts of DELTA prevention efforts.
COLLABORATIONS

DCADV staff participated in many collaborations throughout the year, including committees to plan Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month activities, the Christiana Cares Domestic Violence Prevention Forum, and the Victims’ Rights Task Force Tribute Event.

DCADV also worked on a number of projects in collaboration with community partners. Highlights included:

- **The Disabilities Project Team**, which includes staff from DCADV, UD’s Center for Disabilities Studies, and NAMI Delaware, engaged in an extensive process to develop “The First State Equal Access to Safety” Needs Assessment Plan. The Team also created and implemented focus group training for grant partners. In the coming year, the Delaware collaboration will implement the Needs Assessment Plan to help determine what skills and expertise are needed by grant partners to provide technical assistance to providers across the state.

- DCADV’s efforts to encourage a **trauma-informed approach to domestic violence** included collaborating with the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health and a number of other state coalitions to share expertise and training resources. This collaboration also involved a number of local organizations such as People’s Place and Brandywine Counseling and Community Services, as well as the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. The goal of these collaborative efforts is to make sure that domestic violence is part of the mental health and trauma transformation work in Delaware and to build the capacity of mental health and substance abuse providers to more effectively address domestic violence with their clients. A survey of the more than 200 providers and advocates who attended trauma workshops over the past two years found that nearly 40 percent had changed how they assess for domestic violence and had a better understanding of how trauma impacts survivors. The survey identified unmet training needs, which then informed development of curricula for future workshops on domestic violence, trauma, and mental health.

- DCADV’s CDC-funded **DELTA program** provides support for prevention programming in collaboration with Child, Inc. and the Delaware Center for Justice via the Prevention Subcommittee of the Delaware Victims’ Rights Task Force and Domestic Violence Task Force. See page 4 for more on DELTA.

- The University of Delaware and DCADV continued their collaboration, funded by the Verizon Foundation, to establish a new **Concentration and Minor in Domestic Violence Prevention and Services** in the Department of Women and Gender Studies. The Coalition developed and taught a 400 level undergraduate course entitled Domestic Violence Policy and Prevention during the Spring semester of 2012. Twenty-four students heard from advocates working in a variety of direct service programs, learned about best practices and current research, and completed projects based on a coordinated community response model of problem solving. During the summer, students in the major also completed 10-week practicums in local agencies ranging from People’s Place and Child, Inc. to Wilmington Police Victim Services.

- The LAV Project or Civil Legal Assistance Grant is a statewide collaboration funded by the Office on Violence Against Women aimed at providing coordinated legal services and community resources to victims of domestic and sexual violence. The grant also provides support for training and technical assistance for grant partners and other providers in the field. The Community Legal Aid Society is the lead agency in partnership with Child, Inc., ContactLifeline, Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, DCADV, Legal Services Corporation of Delaware, and People’s Place.
DCADV is recognized as a leader in *domestic violence training* for advocates, criminal and civil justice personnel, and social service staff, reaching 1,899 participants this year alone. Workshops were tailored for numerous audiences on a variety of topics, as shown in the charts below.

**DV101** trainings in Dover were attended by a total of 85 participants in September and March. This signature training introduces new domestic violence advocates and others from the community to the basics of serving and working with victims and survivors of domestic violence.

The two-day **Annual Advocates’ Retreat** held in May in Rehoboth was a great success, with 130 participants each day. This annual conference features national, regional, and local experts. With the theme “Getting to the Heart of What Matters: Critical Reflections on Advocacy, Bullying, and Survivors’ Needs,” workshop topics focused on self-care, bullying, advocacy, and cultural diversity.

Special trainings this year included:

- In partnership with YWCA Delaware, DCADV staff provided monthly presentations to clients of EDSI, a training and employment company. EDSI requested these trainings in response to feedback from their clients about their need for domestic violence resources that would help them more effectively obtain and retain employment.

DCADV continues to offer **Domestic Violence Specialist Certification**, which ensures a well-trained advocacy community. The new UD Domestic Violence Prevention and Services program is aligned with certification requirements.
POLICY AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY

Policy staff provided ongoing technical assistance, referrals, and systems advocacy support on a variety of issues including teen reporting and confidentiality, mandatory reporting in child witnessing cases, custody and visitation, the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) and the Victims’ Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP).

DCADV staff actively participated on 15 policy and advocacy committees convened by government agencies and community partners such as the Criminal Justice Council, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, the Child Protection Accountability Commission, the Division of Family Services, the Division of Public Health, Children and Families First, Prevent Child Abuse Delaware, the Domestic Violence Task Force, and the Victims Rights Task Force. The DCADV Policy Committee is comprised of DCADV members who help to frame DCADV policy work and decide positions on system advocacy issues in an ongoing way.

DCADV’s Legislative Advocacy Project (LEAP) volunteers responded to Action Alerts throughout the year by contacting national legislators to advocate for increased federal funding of domestic violence services and the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. LEAP volunteers participated in DCADV’s Advocacy Day in Dover in March, where they were trained on advocacy strategies and distributed informational folders to all 62 members of the General Assembly at Legislative Hall.

During NNEDV’s Annual Advocacy Day, DCADV led a team including representatives from People’s Place and WEAVER to visit the Washington, DC offices of Senator Coons, Senator Carper, and Representative Carney, urging passage of a bipartisan VAWA bill that protects all victims and focusing on the need for continued funding of domestic violence programs and initiatives.

DCADV worked with community partners to draft guidelines for schools on teen dating violence and sexual assault. The Coalition also supported the Liane Sorenson Act (S.B. 206), a bill that requires schools to establish policy responding to teen dating violence and sexual assaults and ensures comprehensive healthy relationships programming in grades 7-12.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND RESOURCES

DCADV brought national experts and resources to Delaware at its Annual Advocates’ Retreat, Purple Ribbon Event, and a variety of prevention trainings.

Staff participated in the national discussion in a variety of ways. Executive Director Carol Post served a final term as Chair of the National Network to End Domestic Violence’s Program Committee and participated as a member of the Violence Against Women National Advisory Committee, which focused on children and teens exposed to or experiencing domestic or sexual violence and issued recommendations to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder on trauma-informed services, prevention, and evaluation. DCADV advocated nationally for increased funding for the Violence Against Women Act, the Family Violence Services Act, the Victims of Crime Act, and the Reauthorization of VAWA, all of which benefit domestic violence service providers in Delaware. Staff participated in a Public Policy Roundtable hosted by Senator Chris Coons and attended “The Importance of VAWA” Event hosted by Vice President Joe Biden.

Several of DCADV’s prevention efforts were recognized nationally. UD’s Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Concentration, the SafeandRespectful.org website and PSAs, Delaware MEN, and the DELTA Healthy Relationships Unit on the Department of Education’s website were spotlighted in a newly released special collection on VAWnet, The National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women. DELTA’s Healthy Relationships Curriculum project was presented at the National Prevention Symposium. And DCADV and its Delaware MEN project were highlighted by Attorney General Beau Biden at the Town Hall Meeting “Engaging Men and Boys in Ending Violence Against Women” in Philadelphia.
PUBLIC AWARENESS

DCADV disseminates information about intimate partner violence in a variety of ways, including a new website filled with resources for victims and service providers and opportunities for the public to get involved. Staff produced various publications and participated in media outreach on domestic violence and teen dating violence awareness, VAWA funding, and donor/volunteer recognition. Staff and volunteers hosted 28 resource tables throughout the state at conferences, health fairs, and events, and the Silent Witness exhibit was displayed seven times throughout the year.

DCADV’s new website at www.dcadv.org

DELTA’s new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/safeandrespectful, administered this year by DELTA partners at DCJ and Child, Inc.

DCADV Executive Director Carol Post with Rep. Deborah Hudson, Sen. Patricia Blevins, Governor Jack Markell, Attorney General Beau Biden, and Detective Joe Miller at the DVAM Proclamation

DCADV staff worked closely with DELTA partners on the Prevention Subcommittee of the Domestic Violence and Victims’ Rights Task Forces on "Safe and Respectful" messaging, including the DELTA Project’s Safe and Respectful Facebook page to engage teens, parents, and teachers.

TASK FORCES

DCADV’s survivors task force, WEAVER (Women Empowered Against Violence in Every Relationship), participated in a number of public awareness activities, including presenting at and creating resource displays for several public libraries, staffing resource tables, and creating the “Real Words From WEAVER” posters, which were debuted at the Advocates’ Retreat to raise awareness about victim-defined advocacy. WEAVER members also held “Project Geri” supply and toiletry drives in honor of WEAVER founder Geri Lewis-Loper to benefit People’s Place domestic violence shelters.

The Women of Color Task Force (WOCTF) hosted numerous training sessions and resource tables for adults and youth throughout New Castle County. More than 200 people were involved in discussions with WOCTF members on the topics of domestic violence and dating violence, with a specific focus on the faith community.

DCADV reconvened its LGBTQ Task Force to focus on domestic violence-related needs in the LGBTQ community. Their first project was to survey service providers and the LGBTQ community about current needs. Results will be used to identify potential responses within the community.
EVENTS

The public awareness **Purple Ribbon Event** was held during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Wilmington, and 150 guests helped honor Vision of Peace Awardee Jessica Schiffman and Spirit of Advocacy Awardee Mona Bayard. Remarks were made by keynote speaker Sue Else, President of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, First Lady of Delaware Carla Markell, Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn, and sponsor representatives Verizon Delaware President Bill Allan and Verizon Wireless Regional President Mario Turco. The event included a cocktail party, “purpletinis,” a chocolate fountain, and a Pick-A-Prize Raffle.

Almost 60 guests attended the **Annual Meeting** in Dover in December, where Attorney General Beau Biden made opening remarks and the FY11 Annual Report was unveiled.

One of the newest benefits for Supporting Members, the **Members Only Event** provided an opportunity for more than 50 members to network in the beautiful home of Board Member Carol Arnott Robbins in Greenville in August.

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**Event Sponsors**

**2011 Purple Ribbon Event**
Premiere Sponsor: Verizon Wireless
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Empowerment Champion Sponsors: BlackRock Financial Management, Inc.; Delaware City Refining Company, LLC
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**Members Only Event**
Performance Consultants Group, Inc.
Moveable Feast
**Major Funding Highlights**

- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided funding to continue supporting the DELTA prevention work of DCADV and its DELTA partners.
- Funding from the Verizon Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware, and the Gannett Foundation supported DCADV’s Mental Health and Trauma project.
- Bank of America supported general operating expenses, and the Avon Foundation supported public awareness activities.
- Sponsorships and generous donations generated more than $24,000 in net proceeds from the Purple Ribbon Event.

**Sources of Unrestricted Funds**

- More than $3,300 was raised from individuals through United Way, the State Employees Charitable Campaign, and the Federal Combined Campaign.
- Individuals and groups held cell phone drives to collect used phones to be recycled or refurbished, which raised $1,545 from Shelter Alliance.
- 132 organizations and individuals joined as new and renewing Supporting Members, providing more than $11,000 in needed unrestricted funding.
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Atlantic Region, collected $2,350 in donations and almost $600 worth of cell phones from chapters in preparation for their regional conference hosted in Wilmington in October.
- The Avon Foundation hosted an awareness and fundraising event with the Wilmington Blue Rocks to benefit DCADV and donated gift bags for guests at the Advocates’ Retreat.
- Numerous local companies donated items for the Pick-A-Prize Raffle at the Purple Ribbon Event, generating $2,042.

**FUNDERS**

**Government**
- Delaware City
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Family Violence Prevention and Services Act State Coalition Grant
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention DELTA Grant
- U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women Disabilities Grant
- U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women State Coalition Grant

**Foundations and Corporations**
- Agilent Technologies Foundation
- Avon Foundation
- Bank of America
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware
- Gannett Foundation
- Liberty Mutual Foundation
- Shelter Alliance
- Verizon Foundation
- WSFS
Thank You!

Our members, donors, funders, and other supporters sustain our important work to prevent and end domestic violence in Delaware.

Tax-deductible donations and membership payments can be made online at www.dcadv.org by credit card or by mailing a check to DCADV. Contact our Director of Development at 302.658.2958 or sferrer@dcadv.org for questions about making a donation, joining as a member, holding a cell phone drive, or arranging a Planned Gift or gift in memory or in honor of a loved one.

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Delaware Center for Justice
People’s Place II
YWCA Delaware

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