DHF Holds Its 3rd Annual Fundraiser Gala

Submitted by Rabab Ahmed

On Saturday April 9th, 2011, the Swan Club in Roslyn, NY was all with beautifully attired ladies and gentlemen, all supporting the dire cause of domestic violence victims. Domestic Harmony Foundation (DHF) successfully hosted its 3rd Annual Fundraiser Gala with the backdrop of the charming gardens of the country club.

The cocktail hour was held in a glass room overlooking manicured gardens littered with budding spring leaves and hyacinths. There were approximately 190 guests in attendance that night. Various stations of food were nested in the corners of the cocktail reception area as supporters, organizers and guests mingled with each other. During the cocktail hour, on one table DHF volunteers sold CDs and books by singer, author, and humanitarian Salman Ahmad, while on another, enrolments to the DHF Supporter Campaign was in full swing. An expectant buzz surrounded the guests in the reception area as anticipation built for the evening’s events to unfold. Among the attendees were Nassau County (NC) Human Rights Commissioner Zahid Ali Syed, NC Police Dept. Detective Sergeant Tara Comiskey, NC Dept of Social Services Commissioner John Imhof, and Former Commissioner of the NC Police Dept Lawrence Mulvey.

The main event room was beautifully decorated with real carnations and hyacinths in clay pots as centerpiece, adorned by gifts from DHF for the guests. The evening’s program began with an introduction by DHF’s esteemed Executive Director Shaida Khan. Ms. Khan spoke of DHF’s inception and events that brought to light the need for organizations such as DHF to exist. She highlighted the activities of the organization and stressed upon the importance of community involvement in eradicating domestic violence. Ms. Khan’s speech reminded the listeners how essential it is for religious and community leaders to be fully educated on issues of domestic violence so that they could be a guiding light for the victims who turn to them.

As Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice was unable to attend, her place was taken by Madeline Singas, Chief of the Special Victims Bureau at the Nassau County DA’s office, who illustrated the types of crimes the Bureau is faced with on a regular basis. The audience was given a glimpse into life at the Special Victims Bureau and the responsibilities Ms. Singas and her colleagues face each day in their battle against violence.

Following Ms. Singas, the celebrated Salman Ahmad took the stage and the audience’s hearts, after a warm and humorous introduction by DHF member Zainab Nasser. Mr. Ahmad

Contd. On Page 2

DHF Supporter Program

Submitted by Yasmin Wasti

I would like to share some good news with our readers. DHF Supporter program and DHF Youth Wing are recent DHF outreach initiatives. Both of these have turned out to be win-win programs, and are the latest in our campaign to spread the work of DHF.

As a DHF member, I was blessed with the idea of launching a DHF Supporter Program to broaden the base of supporters towards the cause of assisting victims of domestic violence. My proposal was well received and supported by members and was approved by the DHF board. I was given the charge of carrying it forward. Initially I had presented a “DHF Supporter Campaign” at the Noor Masjid Health Fair on Mar. 26th, 2011, where it was very well received, with an initial collection of $135, besides the offer of voluntary professional services from various qualified individuals. The appreciation and enthusiasm from the participants at the fair was truly inspiring to all of us. It has since been presented with a great deal of success at dinner parties, at the DHF Fundraising Gala, at the ICLI Spring Fair and ICLI - Youth Leadership Corp and so on. The number of supporters that have signed up has been growing exponentially. We welcome all our readers and their friends to join in and make a difference in the lives of so many suffering souls.

Contd. On Page 3
DHF Holds Its 3rd Annual Fundraiser Gala

(contrd. from Page 1)

is the founder of the Pakistani rock band Junoon and the non-profit organization, the Salman and Samina Global Wellness Initiative (SSGWI), which works on interfaith dialogue, wellness awareness and music education, to name a few. He performed some of his famous songs with Pandit Samir Chatterjee accompanying on the tabla. Mr. Ahmad’s musical and vocal talents kept the audience captivated and by popular demand he returned a little later in the evening to perform a few more songs.

The musical part of the evening was followed by a brave woman who related to the audience her story and experiences dealing with domestic abuse. The survivor’s story brought home this issue for the awe-struck audience. She spoke of the dilemmas she was faced with daily, the worries for herself and her children’s safety, and her ultimate path into the arms of the Domestic Harmony Foundation. The audience could clearly see the immense amount of strength of heart and mind the survivor has had to bring herself to seek help and continue with DHF’s weekly support group meetings. Because of this one person’s courage, the listeners were able to put a face to the term “domestic violence survivor,” and found themselves transported into her shoes, seeing the pain she has had to endure.

DHF member Yasmin Wasti shared an inspirational poem reflecting the emotions of a domestic violence victim. Long-time DHF member and counselor Dr. Kushalata Jayakar Ahmed skillfully sang a few songs during dinner to depict the feelings of uncertainty and strength survivors of domestic violence can encounter. Later, two young ladies representing the organization Khadijah’s Caravan, a spiritually based activist group, presented poems and pieces written by members of a young generation working to raise awareness on women’s issues. There also followed a slideshow introduced by DHF member and attorney Mr. Omar Chaudhry, Esq. The slideshow presented DHF’s activities over the past year, which included various presentations at numerous locations, events held at DHF locations to raise domestic violence awareness and increase dialogue. The evening ended with a closing speech by DHF member Zainab Nasser, who acknowledged the contributions of each of the existing members.

The evening’s success was greatly due to the great amount of hard work and love that was put in by the organization’s members and volunteers. The work that went behind the scenes to create a night of such elegance and poignancy could have only come about through immense amounts of dedication and time. In addition, individual donors and organizations such as The South Asian Times, Weekly Pakistan Voice, and TVOne Global, our Media Partners, as well as Habib American Bank, the Islamic Center of Long Island, and the Mukhopadhyay Foundation, our organizational sponsors, provide the community and institutional support necessary for the work we do. Undoubtedly, with this continued support and exposure, the coming year will see another successful year of survival for DHF.

Click here to view TVOne Global’s recording of the Gala
DHF Supporter Program

(contrd. from Page 1)

All that is required is to donate as little as $20.00 or as much as you like and become a supporter and become a larger part of DHF. You can share your ideas, use your talent in many ways and if you are too busy, just keep donating and we will use the funds to develop and execute programs that help victims of domestic violence. Your interest, support and donations will make a significant difference, please join us as a supporter and add value to our cause. Mention “supporter” in your donation.

There are numerous benefits to having this program in place, not the least of which is to ensure a steady flow of financial support that DHF can count on to assist its clients, on an annual basis, besides developing a core base of individual benefactors, and a pool of qualified professionals from various walks of life who have expressed interest in volunteering their time and services.

Details of the program are provided here below, with a breakdown of Supporter Donation Levels:

DHF Bronze Supporter … $20 up to $100 annually
DHF Silver Supporter … … $100 up to $500 annually
DHF Gold Supporter … …  $500 and up annually

Besides the satisfaction of knowing that the contribution would be utilized towards empowering and improving the lives of domestic violence survivors, other benefits to you would be:

- Receive information on upcoming DHF events, such as Speaker Series, Movie Screenings, etc.
- Access to Free English classes
- DHF Newsletter subscription
- DHF Supporter Pin
- DHF Giveaways
- Discounts on DHF Hosted Paid Events
  ⇒ DHF Bronze Supporter – 10%
  ⇒ DHF Silver Supporter – 15%
  ⇒ DHF Gold Supporter – 20%

Join in today by donating at our website and specify your “Supporter” level.

Those members that have signed up initially and are owed a giveaway as mentioned above, should contact the DHF office to schedule a time when they can stop by to pick up what is due to them.

DHF Youth Wing

DHF Youth Wing is another initiative carried forward by me and approved by the DHF board. This was created and introduced, during the course of the presentation at the Noor Masjid Health Fair. The main concept behind forming a DHF Youth Wing is to have our youth take over our vision and goals going forward in becoming DHF’s future advocates. This initiative was also shared with the ICLI Youth Leadership Corps members.

We received a very positive response from both boys and girls, and along with Lyla Khan, Hiba Khan-zad, Zoraiz Arif, and Alia Khan there were others who were also interested in working actively in the DHF Youth Wing.

We are reaching out to the youth ages 15 to 25, to sign up as youth supporters by paying as little as $20.00. We have a lot of interesting programs in the planning stage, since we are still in the early phase of organizing and planning the DHF Youth Wing and DHF Supporter Program. We welcome ideas and support from all our readers.

DHF at the ICLI Spring Fair

DHF participated at the ICLI Spring Fair held on Apr. 17th, 2011 at the ICLI grounds in Westbury. It was a huge success as a number of visitors either stopped by themselves or got invited to the DHF table to learn more about the services being provided to the South Asian community on Long Island, the DHF Supporter Program and the DHF Youth Wing initiative. More than 30 attendees signed up either to be included in the DHF mailing list or for enrolment in the Supporter Program. Giveaways included small DHF bags, and scented candles. This was yet another successful DHF outreach effort. Come and visit us at the next ICLI fair and picnic coming up in the summer!
DHF Participates in APPNA Health Fair

DHF participated at the Health Fair organized by the APPNA Womens Alliance at the Noor Masjid in Huntington on March 26th. Yasmin Wasti and Dr. Rafia Hamid each presented information on domestic violence, its impact and effect on the individual and their immediate family, community responsibility as a whole, and the possible steps to address it and resources available. This was very well received by an audience of 25 to 30 women and girls. Both speakers did a phenomenal job, and audience reaction, support and response was so great that few members of the audience stood up to speak themselves too with the intent of encouraging support towards DHF. Other DHF members present were Zainab Nasser, who urged people to come forward and share their talents for the betterment of the community, and Liliana Buitrago who also spoke on behalf of DHF and the wonderful work that we do.

Several audience members volunteered their capabilities to assist DHF on required services for survivors as well as the foundation itself, as part of a drive to enroll a pool of DHF supporters. Towards this end, Yasmin Wasti invited the audience to enlist in the DHF Supporter Program through annual contributions as well as offer their professional capabilities whenever possible or needed. The audience were very interactive and enthusiastic, and expressed thanks and appreciation to DHF for bringing awareness about domestic violence in their community and wanted us to do many more such programs for them in the future. A special thanks to Drs. Kulsoom Shah, Naghma Haque, Rana Suleman, Sabahat, Yasmin Nazli and Zoha Gondal for providing DHF this opportunity.

Lecture Series

DHF has been holding a series of lectures and discussions titled “Using Education to Uplift and Empower Oneself”. These lectures featured speakers and topics that addressed the issue of empowerment through education, self-awareness, and positive, proactive thinking. The lectures were open to DHF members, supporters, survivors, ICLI community members and invitees. A wide cross-section of speakers from various walks of life were invited, as well as book and video discussions held. Speakers utilized reading materials or spoke from their own education and experience to address issues that were relevant to DHF’s clients and general community members. Topics generally addressed the importance of education (either as a way towards a career and stability or as a path for self-awareness or general understanding). Speakers could choose their own specific subject matter and present it in any way they liked. These lectures and discussions were usually held on alternate Sundays and generally ran for about one or one and a half hours, starting at 10.30 a.m. through 12 noon. Here is a brief synopsis of some of the discussions held, in case you missed any. We do have a few more coming up before we break for the summer. Call us and sign up with your email address so that you are on our distribution list.

Jan. 23rd, 2011 — A discussion was led by Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed on Chapter 28 of his book, *The Quran & The Life of Excellence*. The discussion focused on Sura 15, Ayat 56 “And who but those who have gone astray abandon hope of the Lord’s mercy?” We all find ourselves in situations of crisis at some time or the other in life. Do we then lose hope? Is our faith so weak that we cannot understand that what we are going through may be only a small part of a bigger picture the knowledge of which lies only with Allah s.w.t. Hope and fear are attitudes within us and it is up to us to adopt either. So we have to first do the internal work of centering ourselves in positive belief. And as a reminder, the last ayat of the most-often repeated prayer says “Keep us away from the path of those who have earned Your anger and who have gone astray.” This is precisely the same word utilized in Ayat 15:56 to describe people who have gone astray.

Feb. 27th, 2011 – As another part of DHF’s lecture series, “Using education to uplift and empower oneself,” DHF held a discussion around a short clip from the Faith Trust Institute’s DVD, *Garments for One Another*. Participants discussed how faith and religious communities can be a positive force for women and families confronting domestic violence. Also discussed was how DHF, as an organization within the community, can serve as an important point of reference for both, survivors of partner violence, and religious leaders who are in powerful positions to provide service and support to these survivors.

Mar. 6th, 2011 — This discussion was led again by Dr. Sultan Abdulhameed, on Chapter 5 of his book, *The Quran and The Life of Excellence*. The chapter explored ways to maintain faith and a positive outlook despite unhappy and difficult times and directs attention to Sura 93 in particular although many verses from the Quran were examined through an analytical lens to offer support and suggestions on how to maintain one’s faith in the absence of what someone may perceive as guidance. The group discussion focused on how to transform one’s life and understand the true meaning of feeling blessed in a world full of desires, wants, and wishes. Members shared their own personal stories of tragedy and feelings of helplessness, but they focused on how they were able to transform their own pain and unhappiness with life into hope, for “what comes later will be better for you....”

Mar. 20th, 2011 — The discussion was led by Nazli Chaudhry and Dr. Kushalata Jayakar on a chapter of the book, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression for Women Worldwide* by *New York Times* columnist, Nicholas Kristof and his wife, Sheryl WuDunn, who are both Pulitzer Prize winners. The chapter explored the importance of women’s empowerment and education by using anecdotal stories and
education

building coalitions......
moving towards a common cause.....

DHF at the Long Island Fund for Women & Girls

On Oct. 20th, 2010, DHF was represented by Shaida Khan, Executive Director, who attended the 16th Annual “Women Achievers Against the Odds” Fundraising Breakfast of the Long Island Fund for Women and Girls (LIFWG). At the breakfast, L.I. women and girls, who have achieved against the odds professionally and/or personally, are invited and honored. Fields within which they have excelled could also be educational areas such as the Sciences, Sports, Performing Arts or Technology.

LIFWG funds programs that improve the lives of women and girls, highlights and addresses women’s issues, and develops women’s philanthropy. Social change grant making is one strategy the LIFWG uses to advance equity and social justice for women and girls. The fund has provided over $1.4 million in grants to hundreds of non-profits in Nassau and Suffolk counties to transform lives and communities and has helped create long term social change. DHF was the recipient of one of these grants for the year 2009-2010, as well as for previous years when we were still a committee under the umbrella of The Islamic Center of Long Island, Westbury. DHF, along with the other grantees for this year were given a display table at the grantee gallery during the networking hours at the annual fundraising breakfast. This grant allowed DHF to support the Educational & Support Project to empower women and young children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence. The project consists of a series of English language classes and support groups that uses participant photography. DHF is very grateful for their support in helping empower and enhance the lives of the women and families that are dealing with the devastation of domestic violence in their lives.

Did You Know?

Domestic violence is one of the most chronically underreported crimes


experiences from women around the world. It also demonstrated very vividly that if it was a women’s issue, it is usually the women who have to take the lead in resolving the problem. The group discussion focused on the global struggle for women’s equality and seeking justice not only in developing countries but in our own communities. Each person focused on their own responsibility in initiating change as a way to eliminate gender-based violence, believing that the first step begins with us, and in addressing this more responsibly within our communities.

Apr. 24th, 2011— Hazel Weiser, Executive Director of the Society of American Law Teachers, was the speaker. She is a graduate of The George Washington University and Brooklyn Law School. She practiced antitrust and criminal law primarily in San Francisco. For eighteen years, she was a law professor, teaching Constitutional Law, Federal Jurisdiction, and Appellate Practice. She was a Marin County Human Rights Commissioner, and later when she moved to Oyster Bay, was named a Nassau County Human Rights Commissioner. She was also a member of the board and former co-president of the Long Island Fund for Women and Girls, where she met the women who formed the Committee for Domestic Harmony. The topic of the lecture and discussion was: “How to be a good client and move towards self-empowerment at the same time” When a client is well-prepared, with organized documentation, clear goals in mind, it creates a healthy and professional relationship with the attorney and there is a higher likelihood of better communication and representation. There are no hard and fast rules, because clients and attorneys (and their staff) are individuals, deserving of courtesy. But there are ways in which a client can move towards self-empowerment in this relationship, and get the most out of it, without feeling uncomfortable or helpless.

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Increasing Safety in Relationships

Domestic Harmony Foundation members and volunteers Haseena Mooppan, Lilliana Buitrago and Zainab Nasser attended a workshop on ‘Increasing Safety in Relationships’ hosted by The Queens Forum at LaGuardia Community College, Mar. 10th, 2011.

The training was conducted by Ms. Kathy Wilcox and Ms. Carol Fitzpatrick who are proponents of the Non-violent Communication method (NVC) taught by Dr. Marshall B. Rosenberg, founder and director of educational services for The Center for Non-Violent Communication. These methods are seen as powerful tools for peacefully resolving differences at a personal, professional and political level.

Non-violent Communication’s approach to conflict resolution is fundamentally different than the traditional approach since it recognizes DV as an expression of the unmet needs of the perpetrator. The premise behind NVC is that needs are not in conflict since they are universal in nature. The source of conflict is the strategy or strategies one employs to meet those needs.

Hence, all parties involved in a conflict have the shared responsibility to acknowledge and try to meet not only one’s own needs but also the needs of others. Accordingly, in an abusive relationship, the burden of change is on the person who gets the awareness and understanding first. Then, by refusing to blame oneself and trying to connect with the other party in the relationship of conflict, one can possibly try to check the course of and subsequently correct the abusive strategy. It also stresses that if only one person in the relationship is committed to using the NVC method to correct the relationship, then it may not work. The workshop involved some interactive exercises between the participants. The point of the exercise was to stress the key Assumptions and Intentions of NVC and to highlight the importance of ‘needs’ and the ‘feelings’ that are present when these ‘needs’ are not being met in a relationship.

As participants, it was difficult to be fully convinced of the merits or success of the NVC method, especially in situations where the relationship had already progressed towards domestic violence – verbal and physical abuse and so on. The key pitfall is that it maybe more challenging in situations where acknowledging feelings and needs are not the norm. Also, the burden of being an understanding, compassionate and empathetic person while trying to resolve the conflict may be asking too much of a victim, already torn apart and emotionally strained. So while you can find effective ways to avoid conflict, or if not avoidable, to bring down the temperature of those involved through a number of ‘soothing’ techniques, the conflicts themselves do not actually get resolved. They would just go underground. The theory is that painful conflict has to do with unmet and unvoiced needs. So the further the parties move away from communication of the unmet need, the worse their relationship becomes.

But, there is no denial that these methods could be very useful for children, young adults and adults to vastly strengthen the ability to connect compassionately with one self and others. According to reports, the benefits of Nonviolent Communication methods actually increase over time, with restorative communications revealing needs in the relationship. Longings need to be heard and subsequently acknowledged.

Participants at the workshop also included members and volunteers of non-profit organizations like Interfaith Center of New York and New York Asian Women’s Center. The training received media coverage by the Queens edition of New York One and was aired on their evening telecast. Link to the telecast is being provided here below:

Click here for the telecast.

Did You Know?
On average, more than three women and one man are murdered by their intimate partners in this country every day

DHF at the Long Island Unitarian Universalist Fund

On Oct. 21st, 2010, DHF participated in the Long Island Unitarian Universalist Fund’s convening of progressive organizations on Long Island, on behalf of DHF. The many organizations represented at this convention spoke about the struggles they and their communities faced in promoting social justice, as well as how organizations might be able to work together to make their work more efficient and far-reaching. The LIUU Fund hopes to continue to foster these meetings and discussions as we all work towards a shared vision of social justice. This convening represents the beginning steps of a long-term effect to bolster collaboration within the wider Long Island community.

DHF at SUNY Binghamton

Rabab Ahmed represented the Domestic Harmony Foundation at a program held by the Muslim Students Association of Binghamton University in Binghamton, NY on Nov. 4th, 2010. The program’s main goal was to build awareness of domestic violence and discuss safety options for Binghamton University students.

Rabab spoke about domestic violence in minority communities and the importance of identifying the issue and knowing where to seek help. She introduced DHF to the audience and spoke of the organization’s growth and ascent into non-profit status. Along with providing general statistics on domestic violence, she discussed the impact of family violence on children, and touched on misconceptions of tolerance of violence in Islam. The students were given a clear definition of domestic violence, types of violence, and the universality of abusers and victims. Rabab discussed at length the importance of domestic violence education, both within the University and within minority communities.

Available resources were also talked about so that students would be aware of viable options within their area and statewide. Several fliers on family violence, how to identify abusive relationships, and informational brochures were distributed as well.

There were approximately 25 attendees, including members of the Binghamton University Muslim Students Association and students of various backgrounds. The discussion was followed by a brief Q&A session.

DHF at Barnard College & Columbia Univ.

Yavneh, Muslim Students Association, and Hillel of Barnard College and Columbia University, hosted a multi-faith dinner and discussion on "Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse in Religious Communities" on Nov. 4th, 2010. Dr. Michelle Friedman, Assoc. Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Mount Sinai Hospital and Director of Pastoral Counseling at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School was a speaker together with M. Omar Chaudhry, Attorney at Law and DHF Board Member.
Did You Know?

Date rape accounts for almost 70% of sexual assaults reported by adolescent and college age women; 38% of those women are between 14 and 17 years old.

Source: Oregon Law Center

Muhammad Men Speaking Up Against Domestic Violence

Shyam Sriram, coordinator of Muslim Men Against Domestic Violence, spoke about the role men have in stopping domestic, systemic, and community-sanctioned violence against women. Mr. Sriram also spoke about the ways in which all individuals can honestly examine their own attitudes and actions in order to catch themselves before using violent actions or words. Mr. Sriram answered questions audience members had about how to start a community movement involving men, and noted that the men who were in the audience already had the ability to affect change in their surrounding family, social, and religious circles. DHF had a great turnout for the event, and even though our space was tightly packed, we hope to continue holding discussions with men in our community about how we can work together to address violence against women and violence in families.

Intimate Partner Violence Screening in Medical Offices


Patricia O’Campo, Marritt Kirst, Charoula Tsamis, Catherine Chambers, and Farah Ahmad, published a long-term study, cited above, in which they found that health care institutions with comprehensive intimate partner violence screening protocols in place had a higher rate of success in identifying victims of violence. Examining universal intimate partner violence screening programs, which screen all patients regardless of perceived risk, O’Campo, et al. found that structured, multi-level screening protocols and trainings, coupled with easy access to resources and intervention for individuals who disclosed violence, resulted in an increase in the reporting of violence to health care givers.

While their study did not focus on the outcomes of intervention for screened patients, their work does provide valuable information about the processes that lead victims of violence to seek help. As an organization that provides services to individuals who actively seek out our help, Domestic Harmony Foundation appreciates the importance of this research and the importance of comprehensive intimate partner violence screening programs in reaching out to those who may not initially self-identify as victims of violence, or who may not know how or where to seek help. While O’Campo, et al. acknowledge that further research is needed in understanding how screening affects individuals, and what steps are needed post-screening in order to best address the needs of victims, their work is a step in the right direction in the struggle to provide effective and efficient interventions and services to victims of intimate partner violence.

Winter 2010 – Spring 2011 Student Internship Program

Domestic Harmony Foundation has collaborated with SUNY Old Westbury and their dedicated students to institute a student internship in our office. DHF has worked with five students from SUNY Old Westbury, four of whom were freshmen students, participating in the school’s First Year Experience Program. The student interns have provided a great service to DHF, by assisting us with outreach through social media networks such as Twitter and Facebook, and by helping us locate and compile useful community resources for the people we serve. DHF’s student interns have also learned a great deal about the type of work we do in the office, as well as the difficulties we face as an organization. DHF thanks SUNY Old Westbury and our wonderful student interns for their contribution to our work.
Did You Know?

Less than one-fifth of victims reporting an injury from intimate partner violence sought medical treatment following the injury.


ADVOCACY

“The house does not rest on the ground, but upon a woman.”
Mexican proverb

Family Violence & Prevention Services Act (FVPSA)

Domestic Harmony Foundation (DHF) joins advocates and service providers across the nation in celebrating the passage of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) as part of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). These vital programs, first passed in 1984 and 1974 respectively, were long overdue for reauthorization.

“Domestic violence has devastating consequences for families. Each year up to 2 million women and children are injured and more than 15 million children are exposed to intimate partner violence. Now more than ever, we need leadership from the federal government, so that our shelters can keep the heat on and the most vulnerable victims of violence and their families can receive the help that they need,” says Jewish Women International, Executive Director, Loribeth Weinstein. For 25 years, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) has provided life-saving emergency services for victims of domestic violence and their children at their most critical moments—when they are fleeing an abusive environment. FVPSA, which expired in 2008, is the only dedicated federal program supporting shelters, crisis lines counseling, and other victim assistance programs in local communities across the country.

DHF Executive Director, Shaida Khan commented at the DHF Fundraising Gala held on Apr. 9th, 2011 that “we commend both the House of Representatives and the Senate for passing FVPSA as part of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), demonstrating that as we continue to endure tough economic times, women and girls remain a priority.” Together we will work to ensure that victims seeking assistance will not be turned away.

A Mother’s Day Tribute
Happy Mother’s Day!

Submitted by Yasmin Wasti

On behalf of all the DHF members and volunteers, we would like to recognize all the mothers at DHF! Deserving of special mention is the main driving force behind Domestic Harmony Foundation. She is our one and only “Shaida Khan”, a founding member of DHF and the Executive Director. She has an exceptionally pleasant personality. To say the least, she is humble, caring, compassionate, yet very strong, calm and the main driving force behind all that takes place in DHF. She manages her position in DHF as an Executive Director in an amicable manner, while maintaining and balancing her own family affairs remarkably well.

She is a mother of three adorable children. She has done a remarkable job of grooming them so well. We are all blessed to have a person like Shaida Khan who is a valuable asset to DHF.

She is our role model of a successful, humble and smart mother. The DHF team wishes her a very Happy Mother’s Day with lots of blessings and tons of love.

Immediate Attention & Action-DHF members and supporters! Click the image for information about an upcoming contest:
Did You Know?

Intimate partner violence results in more than 18.5 million mental health care visits each year


Other DV Related Headlines

Fact Sheet: International Violence Against Women Act

Characteristics of Aggressors: Testing a Model Using a National Sample of College Students (1991)

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women-Nov. 25, 2011

End Abuse in Later Life Act of 2011

Senator Kohl has introduced the End Abuse in Later Life Act of 2011. The bill reauthorizes a critical grant program in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that would enhance existing direct services for older victims and increase the number of partners eligible for multidisciplinary training to address the issue. “Elder Abuse is a growing epidemic. By conservative estimates, at least 2 million cases are reported each year,” said Bonnie Brandl of the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL). “And we know many victims do not report for a variety of reasons, including fear, concern for the perpetrator, a lack of power, social isolation, ageism, cultural issues and financial barriers.” Older victims, the majority of them women, are less likely to report abuse; a 2009 study found that 85% of older adults who experience sexual abuse did not report to police or other authorities.

Joe Biden’s N.H. Trip Focuses On Abuse

On Apr. 4, 2011, Vice President Biden visited the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH, with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to call attention to the high rates of sexual assault and violence committed against young women in schools and on college campuses across the country. Young women aged 16-24 experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault; in fact, 1 in 5 will be a victim of sexual assault during college. The Vice President and Secretary Duncan highlighted the Administration’s commitment to raising awareness and promoting policies to prevent sexual violence and assault against women of all ages. Also during their visit, they introduced new guidance to help schools, colleges and universities understand their civil rights obligations to better prevent and respond to sexual assault. Following this, on Apr. 5, 2011, the Education Department’s Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Russlynn Ali, followed-up Vice President Biden’s message by hosting a conference call with stakeholders that work closely with Title IX to discuss in more detail the new guidance. She highlighted the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 pertaining to sexual harassment, emphasizing how the law includes and covers acts of sexual violence.

Lawmakers Call for Domestic Violence Offender Registry

Three New York legislators want the state to register domestic violence offenders just as sex crime offenders are publicly listed. State Sen. Eric Adams, Assemblywoman Vanessa Gibson and Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries announced the proposed law on Apr. 17th, 2011. It would require anyone convicted of domestic violence to be listed in a domestic violence offender database.
Domestic Harmony Foundation (DHF)
P.O. Box 35
Syosset, NY 11791
Office Tel: 516-385-8292
Helpline: 516–942-2081
Email: info@dhfny.org
To sign up for future events, become a supporter or to make a donation:
http://www.dhfny.org/donations

“Domestic violence is not just about physical violence. It is a pattern of controlling, abusive behavior—emotional, sexual or physical. It is a pattern that can be prevented and can be stopped. It is something that can happen to anyone” - www.dhfny.org

“Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another. It is an epidemic affecting individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background. Violence against women is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior, and thus is part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death. The consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and truly last a lifetime” - National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence & Its Impact in the Workplace

A 2005 national telephone survey by the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence (CAEPV) found that 21% of full-time employed adults were victims of domestic violence and 64% of them indicated their work performance was significantly impacted.

⇒ According to the CDC, intimate partner violence victims lose a total of nearly 8.0 million days of paid work a year—the equivalent of more than 32,000 full-time jobs.
⇒ The annual cost of lost productivity due to domestic violence is estimated as $727.8 million.
⇒ The cost of domestic violence to the US economy is over $8.3 billion. This cost includes medical care, mental health services, and lost productivity (e.g., time away from work).
⇒ Domestic violence coming to the workplace accounts for 24% of workplace violence incidents (Bureau of Labor Statistics, October 2006)


Editor’s Note: Article submissions by our readers are always welcome. They should be specific to the topic of domestic violence or pertaining to a DHF-sponsored event. Please specify if your name may be mentioned in the byline. We reserve the right to refuse any submissions as well as exercise editorial privilege. We are unable to offer any compensation for these submissions. Please email your articles to info@dhfny.org, and mention “Newsletter Article” in the subject line.