

THE JUSTICE LINE

Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc. Domestic Violence Shelter and Program

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History & Background

The Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc. is a regional domestic violence shelter and program, founded in 1980. For over 25 years, domestic violence services have been available, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The agency operates two 24 hour crisis lines, which are often the first step for women in abusive relationships to seek help, safety, and ultimately a better life.

The mission of BRASS, Inc. is to ensure that the victims of domestic violence and their children live free from any form of domestic abuse, and that their rights are valued, protected, and defended. The primary domestic violence service provider in the region,



Picture taken at the Barren River Area Safe Space's annual staff Christmas party '05.

BRASS, Inc., is committed to ending the trauma and devastation of domestic violence and promoting peace in Kentucky's homes. BRASS, Inc. is accredited by the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association and is an active United

Way agency. State-wide domestic violence shelter statistics show that we are in the top five state funded shelters, in the number of services provided and the number of clients served. Our crisis lines have been recognized by the National Domestic Violence Hotline and have recently received a "Best Practice" Award from the KDVA, due to our advocates answering an average

485 crisis calls monthly. Located in Warren County, our shelter serves primarily Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson, and Warren Counties, but accepts referrals from the entire country.

Special points of interest:

- A journey to citizenship. Newly naturalized staff member, Gordana Popovic. (pg. 2)
- How local businesses can create a safer community. (pgs. 3 & 4)
- How KDVA's IDA program can change our clients economic futures. (pg. 3)
- How can you help out? Our "wish list" tells you what our clients need most. (pg. 4)

From the Director's Keyboard

A Safe Space for Victims of Domestic Violence

By: Lee Alcott

In an American society, where terror and violence permeate the national news scene, it is important to recognize that many families experience the terror of violence in their own homes. 25 years ago, a small group of concerned citizens spoke out about the need for a safe place for women and children who were fleeing domestic violence. What began as a few nights of safety in a local motel evolved into a 26 bed shelter

and outreach program now called the Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc. In 1980, the founding members of BRASS, Inc. had no idea the shelter would be thriving in 2006, with the need for expansion on the horizon. Sadly, domestic violence has not been eradicated in our communities, and according to the American Medical Association, remains the number one health concern for women in the United States. BRASS, Inc., a United Way member agency, is committed to elimi-

nating barriers victims face when fleeing abusive partners. The by-line for our two, 24 hour crisis lines is, "United Way, saving lives one call at a time." Their purpose is to offer immediate access to safety and services. Trained victim advocates answered more crisis calls than any other KY domestic violence shelter in 2005. Not only do victims call, but we also respond to third party callers who may call on behalf of a family...(continued, pg. 2)

Staff Spotlight: Gordana Popovic

By: Ryan Braber

American for the First Time

Most of us were born into the American way of life, and being an automatic United States citizen is easily taken for granted. This piece is about a young woman, currently part of our advocacy services staff, who recently became an American citizen. On January 13, 2006, Gordana Popovic was officially sworn in as an American citizen, after living here for nearly 10 years. She is also the first member of her family to obtain their citizenship. Before being sworn in, she lived in the U.S. under immigration's refugee program with permanent resident status. Her family, fleeing civil unrest and religious conflict in Bosnia, first arrived in a refugee center in Bowling Green, KY in 1997. Gordana was put into the public school system with little understanding of the English language, and placed one grade level lower than she should have been. Her eagerness to adapt

and willingness to be flexible allowed her to overcome these obstacles and convinced the teaching staff to advance her to the appropriate grade. While interviewing Gordana, she expressed feelings of relief that the naturalization process was over. Although she went on to voice support for the citizenship procedures and believes that it is a true measurement of a person's dedication to becoming a U.S. citizen. If you are unfamiliar with the preparation that goes along with the application and testing process; the test leaves no room for error. A perfect score is the only mark that will result in gaining ones citizenship. Topics on the test consist of American history, current events, government structure and policy, geography, and understanding the vast cultural diversity that American society exhibits. Gordana is also a student at Western Kentucky University, planning to graduate in December of this year with a bachelor's degree in sociology, with a



Gordana is a valued member of our victim advocacy staff.

minor in family studies. She plans to continue her schooling and obtain a masters degree in marriage and family counseling. Overcoming obstacles and focusing on future goals is often what differentiates success and failure. Gordana's dedication and positive outlook on life enabled her to conquer the various challenges that go along with a move to a new country at the age of 12. She says the transition to American political and social cultures was a smooth one. We wish her continued success in future with our agency and in this country.

"You can't appreciate what you've never had." Gordona

**In memoriam:
Christina Renshaw
August 13, 1979-
February 3, 2006**



Domestic violence homicide victim. Bowling Green, KY, February 3, 2006.

From the Director's Keys

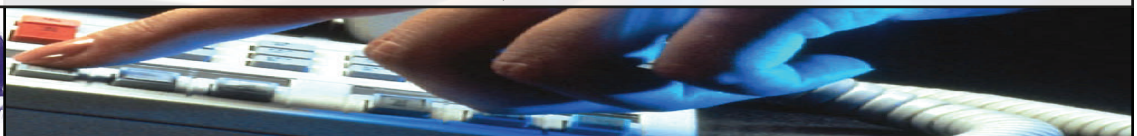
...(continued, pg. 1) member or friend who is being abused. They call for help, encouragement, and assistance in learning how to keep their relative or friend safe. Our agency employs dedicated advocates who are placed across a 10 county service area. During a recent presentation, one of our advocates shared these words, "I consider advocacy for victims of domestic vio-

lence a calling, not just a job. Whether I advocate for a victim within the legal system, or provide information about local community resources, my role is one of support. Our mission is to empower victims to make their own decisions in attempting to rebuild their lives, provide for themselves, and raise their children in a violence-free environment."

It is with these words that I welcome you to the inaugural issue of "The Justice Line," a newsletter focused on informing the community about what our program is all about, on recognizing those who contribute to our work to end domestic violence, and remembering those who have lost their lives as a result of domestic violence.

800-928-1183

BRASS, INC. CRISIS LINE IS ALWAYS FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, AND CARING. EVEN IF YOU JUST HAVE QUESTIONS, CALL US TO GET A STRAIGHT ANSWER. OUR ADVOCATES ARE WAITING FOR YOUR CALL 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK.



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Special thanks to Papa John's for supporting our monthly IDA Peer Group!

Citifinancial Foundation and Sam's Club donations for peace and financial freedom.

Local businesses making a difference in our community

BRASS, Inc. has been fortunate enough to receive federal, state, and private grants through the work of our director, who writes our grants, and the generosity and foresight of others who recognize that our program is a necessary and worthwhile cause. On December 1, 2005, Citifinancial Foundation awarded BRASS, Inc. with a grant for our Financial Freedom Project. Their contribution of \$25,000 towards our financial literacy program is truly needed and appreciated. The funds will be used to remove barriers victims of domestic violence face when attempting to become self-sufficient. These financial burdens include childcare, transportation, job training, and safe/affordable housing. BRASS,

Inc. recognizes the need for victims of domestic violence to become empowered economically in order to, access and maintain housing, support a single-parent household, and succeed in becoming an independent individual.



Funds from local businesses help to ensure success for DV victims.

Our Crisis Lines also received a gift of \$3,000 from Sam's Club of Bowling Green, as part

of their grand opening. During Ribbon cutting ceremonies, checks were presented in various amounts. BRASS, Inc. submitted a request for funds to supplement the costs of operating our two crisis lines. Our Crisis Line, also funded by the United Way, is a nationwide, toll free line that operates 24 hours a day. Our agency has worked to improve the visibility of these services and to make them more accessible throughout our ten county service region. Official statistics released in October of 2005 from the KDVA show that our advocates answered more crisis calls than any other state funded shelter in Kentucky. We would like to thank all private donors and businesses who are making a difference for our community.

KDVA's IDA program offer our hope for economic stability

Information provided by: Erin Pearson-Housing Advocate.

Individual Development Accounts for Independence:

Kentucky Domestic Violence Association's IDA program is one of the many services we encourage our clients to participate in. This program, designed for a two year payback, gives participants a 2 to 1 return on the money that they invest. The investment cap is set at \$2000. So, after a \$4000 return, the individual

would have a total \$6000 to put towards buying a home, going to college or technical school, or starting a business. Many of our clients have expressed concerns that they would never be able to pay off their debt or afford to own their own home. Now, they can see that it is possible. Two of our clients are within months of purchasing

their asset thanks to the IDA program. Due to an increase in fraud in recent years, many people have errors on their credit report. Our clients are also learning the importance of checking their credit report regularly and how to correct errors. Our clients all have the opportunity to clean up their credit report with a homeownership counselor.



KDVA's IDA program gives a 200% return on investment for 2 years.

"I never thought it was possible for me own my own house, but now I can see it's actually possible!" BRASS, Inc. Client.

BRASS, Inc. recognizes the generous spirit and support of the following Faith Communities in Warren and surrounding counties during 2005 & 2006. Through generous donations of food, furniture, personal care items, financial assistance, books and cell phones, these congregations continue to reduce the devastation of domestic violence in the communities they serve. -THANK YOU-

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Holy Spirit Catholic Church
Living Hope Baptist Church
First Christian Church
Unitarian Universalistic Church
Oakland Baptist Church
Fairview General Baptist Church
Broadway United Methodist Church
Faith United Methodist Church
First United Methodist Church
Three Springs Baptist Church

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Hillview Heights Baptist Church
Christ Episcopal Church
Barren River Baptist Church
Trinity Full Gospel Baptist Church
Greenwood Baptist Church
Smiths Grove Baptist Church
Greenwood Park Church of Christ
Adairville Baptist Church
Our Lord's Temple

First Christian Church
Church of God
Christ the King Catholic Church
Willing Hearts and Hands
Project HELP
Round Pond Presbyterian Women
Eastern Star
FAC Missionary & Christian Women's Auxiliary
State Street United Methodist
Grace Orr Circle
Gloryland Gospel Church

Vincent DePaul Society
Knights of Columbus
Oakland Acteens
Busy Honeybees Sewing Group
Hiseville Circuit United Methodist Women
His Helping Hands
Fairview Baptist Women of the Word
Bowling Green Ministerial Association
Women's Mission Union Post Oak

Barren River Area Safe
Space, Inc.

P.O. Box 1941
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Phone: (270)781-9334
CRISIS LINE:800-928-1183

BRASS Inc. Remembers Bill C.
Greenwalt: BRASS, Inc. board
member, 1999-2006.

**Lieutenant Colonel Bill C.
Greenwalt
1946-2006**

BRASS, Inc. mourns the loss and fondly remembers the life and contributions of Bill as one of our family. As well as a being a sitting member of our board of directors for seven years, he was also a retired Army chaplain, and an assistant professor and coordinator for the mental health program and the marriage and family therapy program in the Department of Counseling and Student Affairs at Western Kentucky University. Our thoughts and condolences go out to family and loved ones. We will all miss him greatly.



BRASS, Inc. Board Members, 2006

BRASS, Inc. would like to recognize our board members for their efforts to make our community better. Our board consists of the following members:

Joy D. Denton
Ranee Durham
Carol Ann Gilbert
Connie Devasher Jefferies
Andy Lange
Leslie Mitchell
Lori Mitchell
Randy Schocke
Richard Storey
William L. Twyman
Nancy Ware
Stacie L. Wilson

Justice Line Newsletter Editor:
Ryan Braber

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braber_80@yahoo.com or
justiceworksmmedia@ccol.net

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

BRASS, Inc. "Wish List"

Our shelter provides safety and support services to an average 380 victims and 148 children each year, and serving so many clients takes more than just a dedicated staff. It also takes significant funds to provide basic necessities to our clients and their children. With the help of grants and beneficent donors



All donations go toward helping battered women and their children's lives better.

- throughout the community, we have been helped greatly, but the items listed below are goods we need most, on a daily basis. We appreciate your continued support and kindness, and happy to pick up your donation at almost any location at your convenience.
- Paper Products
 - Laundry Supplies
 - Diapers (sizes 3-6 especially)
 - Baby Wipes
 - Baby Lotion/Shampoo/Desitin
 - Alarm Clocks
 - Blankets/Linens
 - Towels & Washcloths
 - Phone Cards
 - Backpacks/School Supplies
 - Used Furniture
 - Lamps
 - Kitchen Ware
 - Canned Goods
 - Personal Hygiene Items
 - Cribs & Crib Sheets
 - Umbrellas
 - Women and Children's Pajamas
 - New Socks/Underwear
 - Lightly used Jeans, Slacks, and other Women and Children's Clothing
 - Plastic Hangers
 - Children's Toys, Games, or Books