

# DOVE



# Tales

A publication of AWARE, Inc. "Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies"

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AWARE Women Laurel Carr-Michael and Ati Nasiah know how to have fun at the *Women of Distinction Banquet* held March 10.

The Women of Distinction Banquet held at Centennial Hall March 10 raised funds for AWARE while honoring four Juneau women who have made significant contributions to this community. This year, honorees were: Joyanne Bloom, Ann Lockhart, Doloresa Cadiente and Connie Munro.

It was a sell out crowd with over 340 tickets sold for the silent auction and banquet. Over \$30,000 was garnered by the fund raiser.

AWARE hopes to expand the event next year, so all folks who wish to attend will be able to purchase tickets.

————— See photos of this event page five —————

## April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

A growing body of research points to a definite link between adult domestic violence and child abuse. These connections are pervasive. Forty-five to seventy percent of battered women in shelters report that their batterers have also committed some form of child abuse. Even using the more conservative figure, child abuse is 15 times more likely to occur in households where adult domestic violence is also present. Women who have been beaten by their spouses are, in turn, reportedly twice as likely as other women to abuse a child. It is also estimated that 3.3 million to 10 million children witness domestic violence each year. Many child witnesses of domestic violence experience increased problems themselves.



These connections make it important for those working in the field of child abuse and neglect to understand the connection between spousal abuse and child abuse, and to respond with treatment and protective resources that recognize the link. Cooperation between professionals working with battered women and abused or neglected children is essential. In practice, formal connections between the two fields are not often in place. They are sorely needed, however, beginning with the initial intake contact with the abused child or battered women, and continuing through assessment of the precipitating incident and family interaction, treatment planning, intervention strategies, and evaluations of client progress.

A variety of family dynamics are at work in homes where spouse abuse leads to child abuse or neglect. Sometimes a child is the unintended victim when he or she attempts to intervene in an attack on a parent. In other instances, a child is accidentally struck by a blow directed at the mother. However, many children are deliberate targets in violent households. The severity of child abuse, and the manner in which children are abused bears a strong resemblance to the type of maltreatment experienced by their mothers. More difficult for many to understand is the battered woman who abuses or neglects her children. According to those who work with battered women, several explanations are possible. In an effort to forestall further violence, some battered women devote all their attention to their abuser, or they withdraw from the family -- even the children -- in an effort to protect themselves. Both responses may result in child neglect. The tremendous stress associated with living in a violent situation may also prompt physical abuse of children by those women at risk for such behaviors. Some physical or emotional abuse of children also results from battered women who are so fearful of their spouse's reaction of childhood behavior that they over discipline in an attempt to protect the children from what they perceive to be the greater danger from the batterer.

Even in households in which children are not themselves physically abused or neglected, they can be victimized by witnessing spousal abuse. Because children do not fully understand the dynamics of domestic violence, they may come to view power and control, aggression and violence as the only means of getting one's needs met. Children may also imitate the violent adult behavior they observe by victimizing younger siblings, peers, and animals. Other children may adopt the victim role, becoming passive and withdrawn in their interactions with other people. Child witnesses of domestic violence may also display an inability to control and express emotion, or to delay gratification.

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Thoughts and  
Thanks  
from Saralyn



AWARE Executive Director  
Saralyn Tabachnick

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National

Crime Victims' Rights Week

*Victims' Rights:*

*Every Victim. Every Time.*

April 22–28, 2007

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# Glimpses of Women of Distinction Banquet





# Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Women's organized protests against violence began in the late 1970s in England, with Take Back the Night marches. These women-only protests emerged in direct response to the violence that women encountered as they walked the streets at night. These activities became more coordinated and soon developed into a movement that extended to the United States and, by 1978, the first Take Back the Night events in the U.S. were held in San Francisco and New York City. Over time, sexual assault awareness activities expanded to include the issue of sexual violence against men and men's participation in ending sexual



By the early 1980s, substantial interest developed in coordinating activities to raise awareness of violence against women. As a result, time was set aside during October to raise awareness of violence against women issues. Over time, October became the principle focus of domestic violence awareness activities. Sexual assault advocates looked for a separate time to focus attention on sexual assault issues.

In the late 1980s, the National Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCASA) informally polled state sexual assault coalitions to determine when to have a national Sexual Assault Awareness Week. A week in April was selected. Over time, however, some advocates began focusing attention on sexual violence throughout the month of April. In the late 1990s, many advocates began coordinating activities throughout the month of April on a regular basis, promoting an idea for a nationally recognized month for sexual violence awareness activities.

From 2000-2001, the [Resource Sharing Project \(RSP\)](#) and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), polled state, territory, and tribal coalitions and found that the color teal was the preferred color for sexual assault awareness and prevention and April was the most preferred month to coordinate national sexual assault awareness activities, respectively. As a result, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) was first observed nationally in April 2001.

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Dove Cottage  
A Place of Peace  
Shaa-ka Ut-Yatx-Nóow



*AWARE's mission is to provide safe shelter and supportive services for women and children who have been subjected to domestic or sexual violence; and to effect the social, political and legal changes needed to eliminate oppression and violence against women and children.*

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