On Saturday, March 10, AWARE held our eleventh annual Women of Distinction Gala and Silent Auction at Centennial Hall. The event honored four distinguished women who have made significant contributions to improving the lives of Juneau's women and children, and raised over $30,000! Community members submitted nominations; the honorees were selected by AWARE’s board of directors. The 2007 honorees were Joyanne Bloom, Doloresa Cadiente, Ann Lockhart, and Connie Munro.

The Women of Distinction Gala is AWARE’s annual fundraising event, drawing over 300 people, and this year raising over $30,000. AWARE was delighted to have the support of our Gold Corporate Sponsor: $2500: First National Bank Alaska, and Silver Corporate Sponsors: $1,000: Sealaska Corporation, Wells Fargo, Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and the Machamer Charitable Fund. We were also grateful for our Precious Gems: Diamond: $1,000: Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Sapphire: $750: Cathy Johnson, and Rubys: $250: Sam Kito, Jr., Al Adams, and Elgee Rehfield Mertz. These generous contributions enable AWARE to share this community celebration and to provide prevention and intervention services for those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

Festivities began at Centennial Hall with a reception at 5:30 pm. There was a no-host bar and silent auction, with music graciously provided by the Rob Cohen Group. At 7 pm, emcee Liz Dodd extended a welcome and the Glacier Valley (Elementary School) HeART & Sole Ballroom Dancers performed and warmed all our hearts and souls. A catered dinner followed.

Juneau Senator Kim Elton and Representatives Beth Kerttula and Andrea Doll provided thoughtful remarks and presented awards and citations from the legislature to the four honorees. Thanks to those aforementioned and to Amy Carroll, Jeanette St. George, The Plant People, Amy Newman, Lori Heagy, Shane Wirtz, emcee, Liz Dodd and the AWARE board of directors for their many hours of in-kind service to AWARE. We would not have had such a fun, touching, inspirational evening without each and every
Meet our Women of Distinction

Joyanne Bloom considers herself a child of privilege, having been blessed with loving parents, good health, a college education, decent paying jobs and a strong support system.

“To show my appreciation for what I had, I always wanted to give back,” she said. She’s done just that, working both personally and professionally to help ease the struggles of women and their children.

Joyanne’s dedication reaches back to 1972, when she began working with the Juneau Family Planning Clinic. Over the course of the next 35 years she could be found throughout Juneau - a calming voice on AWARE’s crisis line, teaching English as a Second Language, setting up an adult education center at St. Vincent de Paul, helping women obtain their GED, and coordinating community efforts to stop tobacco use among teens.

Joyanne’s efforts aren’t limited to the women and children in her own community. In 2000, she spent a year in New Mexico as part of the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program and helped start legal aid clinics for survivors of domestic violence. Leading to her board position on the American Jewish World Service, she worked with the indigenous Nautl women in Pueblo, Mexico to establish micro-enterprises, “raising chickens, making and selling tortillas and marketing their embroidery”. And winters in Patagonia, Chile while running a fly-fishing lodge with her family, she helped local women start a cottage industry knitting sweaters.

Through the years, she’s been inspired, she said, “by the young moms who have the determination to make a better life for themselves and their children, and the English learners who had the courage to come to a new country in hopes of a safer, better life for their families”.

Joyanne is the proud mother of Lindsey, Scott, and daughter-in-law BreAnna, and proud “Bubbie” of granddaughter Bay.

Doloresa Cadiente believes that in order to build a strong community, the community needs to work to provide protection and safety for our children and to provide supports to strengthen families. Neither, she says, can exist without the other.

“Health, education and social services are important to the development, protection and safety of our children and families,” she said. “If our children and families are strong in body, mind and spirit, our families, clan and community will be strong.”

Dolores is the daughter of Irene Cadiente and the late Andres Aquino Cadiente. She is a woman of the Teikweidí Clan, Eagle Moiety, of Angoon.

Dolores has been active in the local tribal and state health care and child welfare systems since 1990, when she first became a member of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, Camp #2. She has been doing Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention and Awareness activities since 1990 and became certified as a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Trainer for the State of Alaska during 2005.

Dolores serves as Tlingit & Haida’s representative on the Child Advocacy Center Multi-Disciplinary Team. The group is comprised of representatives from community agencies so that children can be heard. The team works to intervene for the safety, well-being, and healing of abused children and works to help children heal from the trauma of abuse.

“Child abuse is a multifaceted community problem, and no single agency, individual or discipline has the necessary knowledge, skills or resources to serve the needs of all children and their family,” she said in describing the mission of the CAC.

Dolores is also a member of the Breakthrough Series Collaborative (BSC), a
group working to lower the “growing trend of Alaska Native children and youth in the State child welfare system.” The hope in this BSC is that by improving the system for Native children and families – those who are most disadvantaged by the current system – the system will ultimately be improved for all children and families.

If it were even possible, being chosen as a 2007 Woman of Distinction has inspired Dolores to continue the extraordinary work she has already done for Juneau’s women and children. “It has encouraged and inspired me to continue the journey of providing advocacy for our children and their families, and do what I can to assist service delivery workers to be the best they can be working with them.”

Ann Lockhart has always had an interest in young people, and has sought to help them grow into productive members of society by focusing not only on mentoring them, but becoming their friend and exposing them to the world around them.

“I’ve taken three groups on mission trips to Mexico during spring break,” she said. “It’s important to expose them to Third World countries.”

Annie worked with youth for 14 years with upper elementary, middle and high school students. She also volunteers with Big Brothers/Big Sister’s Amachi program, which works with children whose parents are incarcerated.

For the past year and a half she has worked with Juneau’s Love, INC, helping single mothers and their children “with food, clothing furniture and other support as they came out of the AWARE shelter or halfway house.” During her work as a nurse over the past 33 years, she has taken care of many women with breast, colon and ovarian cancers, which Ann described as “hard, but also such a privilege.”

Ann’s passion extends beyond Juneau, as well, participating in a mission trip to Senegal through her church in partnership with World Vision. Her dream, when she retires, is to go on medical mission trips.

“It makes you realize, ‘Whatever you could do, would be of help, and so appreciated,’” she said. “The simple act of giving medicine . . . and then give good water could save a life. To see the how these women and children’s lives were impacted in a positive way from this outreach was humbling.”

She’s also recently started working with Hospice/Home Health, which has been a dream for a while. Annie and her husband Bill have three children, Toby, Josh and Anje.

Growing up female on a farm in Vermont, Constance Munro took what others would perceive to be heavy obstacles and turned them into opportunity. When she wanted to learn how to operate and repair tractors and small appliances, she petitioned the 4-H Boys Club for admission. In 1958 she moved to Nashville and was part of the early civil rights movement by helping to organize sit-ins at non-integrated Catholic Churches.

Connie moved to Juneau in 1971 where she drove friend Edie Ebona Butler to her college classes. Butler signed Connie up for the same classes, and soon Connie found herself not only with a GED, but with a career in continuing education, as well, where she was able to “advocate and be involved in the conditions we live in.”

After earning a BA in human resources and Masters’ degrees in Adult and Community Education and Secondary Education Language Arts, Connie taught Reading, English as a Second Language and other GED subjects at various agencies throughout town. The diversity of her students - some seeking shelter at AWARE, others in either Lemon Creek or the halfway house - helped her understand how to better serve those in need.

“This gave me a personal insight to the issues of adults in transition and how service programs can better serve them, such as scheduling, open entry/exit, clear explanations of testing and scoring, studying short cuts and how to build the bridge to employment,” she said.
to the businesses and individuals who donated items for our silent auction. AWARE raised $10,000 from the Silent Auction, thanks to you and the bidders attending the

Alaska Brewing Company
Alaska Zipline Adventures
Alison Elgee
Annie Kaill's, Darby Hinz
Asha Falcon
Barbara Murray
Representative Beth Kertulla
Billie Post (1898-2004)
Bonnie Berg
Bridget Smith
Captain's Choice Motel, Haines
Carol Berg
Christine Hess
Cindy Burchfield
Colleen Goldrich
Connie Munro
David Riccio, Lemon Creek Digital
Debi Knight Kennedy
Diane Sly
El Sombrero
Elizabeth Calvert
Fabienne Peter-Contesse
Gold Street Quilters
Honey Smith
Ian Fisk
Intermedia, Susan Hoffman
Island Pub
Jayne Andreen
Jenna O'Fontanella
Jetta Whittaker
Juneau Arts and Humanities Council
Juneau Racquet Club
Juneau Skating Club
K3 Public Radio Stations
Senator Kim Elton
Lauren Anderson
Liz Blecker
Loren and Larae Jones
Marie Larsen and Larry Holland
Marie Olson
Marla Berg
Michael Hunter
Michele Masuda
Michele Ricci
Representative Mike Doogan
Molly Box
Morgan Landry
Nancy Karacand
Natalee Rothaus
Neil Slotnick
Nora Laughlin
North Star Trekking
Nugget Alaskan Outfitters
Olivia’s de Mexico
Pamela Baker-Williams
Pat Harris
Perseverance Theater
Rainbow Foods
Rainforest Yoga, Beverly Ingram
Rep. John Harris
Rosemary Hagevig
Rowan Law
Sarah Felix
Seong's Sushi Bar
Seventh Heaven
Shar Fox
Sharon Lobaugh
Shirley Carlson
Shoefly
Southeast Artworks
The Hangar
Thunderbird Motel, Haines
Tony Newman
Vivian Montoya
Wellspring
Zen
Thoughts and Thanks from Saralyn

It’s a record breaking year. . .

As I write, there’s been more snow in Juneau than ever in the history of recording snowfall in Juneau, and I’m thinking by the time you read this there might have been over 200 inches of snow in our city.

AWARE’s Women of Distinction Gala Fundraiser brought in a record $30,000+ in honor of 2007’s Fabulous Four: Joyanne Bloom, Doloresa Cadiente, Ann Lockhart and Connie Munro, and to enable AWARE staff and volunteers to do our work. It was a wonderful evening of celebrating these four women and learning about what inspires them to do their good works for all of our benefits.

AWARE’s Teens Resisting Abuse & Initiating Non-Violence (TRAIN) project moved beyond the training stage and into the prevention and intervention stage, with youth providing awesome peer education presentations, and the initiation of the TRAIN Teen Crisis Line (586-5920) on Sundays from 4 to 8 pm.

We’ve completed a cycle with our Juneau Batterer Accountability Program (JBAP). Thus far, three men have completed the 48 week program, and we expect to have several more finish in the coming months. While completing the program cannot guarantee violence-free behavior, the men report to have made progress in their ability to communicate more effectively and to handle stressful situations in a non-violent manner.

And we’ve had a record number of nights of safe shelter provided for women and children, in the first six months of this fiscal year, 3,296 nights. By comparison, during all of FY ’06, we provided 4,668 nights of safe shelter. I’m not sure that means there’s more violence in our town, but rather there’s more awareness about the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault, there’s less stigma and shame in seeking services, there’s more steadfastness in women seeking safety for themselves and their children. AWARE staff work diligently with each survivor of violence who uses our services, to meet with her where she is at and to walk alongside her step by step as she decides the next step for herself and her family.

I am proud to work with AWARE’s exceptional staff, and to staff who are moving on to other opportunities, we wish you well in your new endeavors. This month, Deborah Johnson left AWARE for "the job of my dreams" and we are delighted for her and wish her all the best. Eve Southworth will be leaving in April, heading back east for a few months before sailing the Armistead from England to South Africa. In the months to come, Ann Ropp plans to move south for more sunshine, Laurel Carr-Michael will move to South Carolina when her partner’s Coast Guard transfer becomes reality, and our maintenance worker extraordinaire, Karl Ashenbrenner, will also be leaving AWARE. Thank you Deb, Eve, Ann, Laurel, and Karl for the commitment, expertise, and affection each of you bring to us. We are hopeful to be able to hire equally efficient and effective individuals to join the AWARE team.
How different the lives of our grandmothers, elders, mothers, aunties, sisters, daughters, nieces, neighbors and friends would be if the violence of sexual assault was not part of their life story. Unfortunately, sexual Assault and Sexual Violence is pervasive in Alaska. Fortunately, together we have the power and resources to change these statistics!

Sexual assault involves sexual acts that are forced upon individuals against their will. These acts can be physical (such as rape or unwanted sexual touching), verbal (such as sexually abusive or threatening speech), or psychological (such as voyeurism or exhibitionism). Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault. However, women and girls are more likely than males to experience violence of this type. Sexual assault is most often committed by someone known to the victim such as a spouse, family member, co-worker, friend or acquaintance, although it can also be committed by a stranger.

The State of Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault reports the following alarming statistics: In Alaska,
- a woman is raped every 18 hours and 17 minutes.
- the rape rate is 2.5 times larger than the national average, larger than California and Washington combined.
- nearly 44,000 adult women, 1 in 5, is a rape victim.
- rapes are reported to police only 1 in 6 times.
- sexual assault victims are 89% females and 11% males.

While reading statistics, pause and remember the each number is so much more than a statistic. Each number represents people terrorized.

Thursday, April 5 is National Day to End Sexual Violence. On this day, and everyday, make a commitment to end sexual violence. Each individual and organization can make a difference! For example, Faith Trust Institute’s 2007 National Declaration By Religious and Spiritual Leaders to Address Violence Against Women is:

“We proclaim with one voice as national spiritual and religious leaders that violence against women exists in all communities, including our own, and is morally, spiritually, and universally intolerable.

“We acknowledge that our sacred texts, traditions and values have too often been misused to perpetuate and condone abuse.

“We commit ourselves to working toward the day when all women will be safe and abuse will be no more. We draw upon our healing texts and practices to help make our families and societies whole.

“Our religious and spiritual traditions compel us to work for justice and the eradication of violence against women.

“We call upon people of all religions and spiritual tradition to join us.”

To sign this declaration, go to Faith Trust Institutes website www.faithtrustinstitute.org.

What can I do?

Since the late 1980’s, April has been recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). SAAM is a time to focus on preventing over 73,000 cases of sexual assault that occur each year in the United States. This year, SAAM activities and events across our state and the country will emphasize ways to build healthy, respectful relationships. This
focus brings a new, positive approach to raising awareness and promoting prevention of sexual violence.

Below are talking points to help you or your children talk about sexual assault prevention in the context of healthy relationships. They can be used at any time to talk about the importance of healthy relationships and preventing sexual assault.

Messages

• **Relationships are not perfect** - Feeling angry, hurt, or upset at times is normal. But feeling scared, humiliated, pressured, or controlled is not the way a relationship should make you feel. Instead, you should feel loved, respected, and free to be yourself.

• **Talk with each other** - Communication is essential in healthy relationships. Couples should take time to talk with each other - respect each others’ opinions, and feel comfortable asking each other questions even about sex.

• **Family matters** - Families are an important part of everyone’s lives. Family members help shape beliefs, provide support, and can serve as role models. But sometimes families can reinforce violent behavior. Actions with intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, or degrade another leads to unhealthy relationships. Children learn what they see and hear. Without healthy relationships from which to learn, children can grow up to act out and be in sexually abusive relationships (American Psychological Association, 1996).

**How Can I Protect My Child?**

While there is no sure fire way to protect you child from all dangers, there are some steps you can take to help reduce the risk of sexual assault:

**Communicate, communicate, communicate.**

• Tell your children that you are always there to talk about anything. Tell them that you are there to help them solve problems and to protect them no matter what their choices are.

• Teach your children that it is NOT okay for adults or other people in positions of authority (coach, youth group leader, friend’s older brother) to act in a sexual way with minors and use examples.

• Teach your child that their bodies are their own and that it is OK if they don’t want to be sexually active on any level.

• Speak to your children about using the proper names for their body parts. Using derogatory names for their body parts teaches them to devalue their bodies. With information, children are better able to report abuse to you.

• Try to be relaxed when talking about these issues. If you are not tense while talking about these issues, then they are less likely to be worried about talking.

• Talk to you children about sex when they show interest or curiosity.

Sexuality is an important part of being human. It involves more than the physical act of intercourse with another person. It affects how we feel about ourselves as males and females and even impacts some of the choices we make. The more information you provide your child, the more educated their decisions will be. Talking with you child is important to helping him or her develop healthy attitudes toward sex and to learn responsible behavior. It is important for children to understand sexual feelings and relationships. In fact, studies have shown that teens who have discussed sex with their parents are less likely to become victims of sexual assault. For more information about talking to your child(ren) about healthy relationships, please contact AWARE at 586-6623.

article adapted from www.webmd.com/sex-relationships/guide/talking-to-your-kids-about-sex
When I think about the women I work with on a day-to-day basis, I think of them more as my sisters than I do my co-workers. Each of my sisters here at AWARE has a wonderfully unique personality, and they each contribute something positive to the supportive and nurturing environment of AWARE.

If you worked here, you’d know how exceptional the AWARE staff is. You would know about Saralyn’s serenity and warmth, Rachael’s laughter, Mandy’s humor, Joann’s passion, Ati’s spirit, Pam’s generosity, Ellen’s compassion, Sarah’s spunk, Jaime’s smile, Deb’s wit, Anne’s dedication, Eve’s happiness, Kathi’s grace, Laurel C’s sparkle, Laurel P’s enthusiasm, and Stacy’s talent. And, if you were lucky (and there wasn’t a moose-hunting trip planned), you might even find out about Karl’s steadiness.

Working with these wonderful individuals has taught me so much about life and about myself. However, I will be leaving Juneau within the next few months to continue on to my next adventure. Leaving Alaska is the best choice for me personally, even though it means leaving the supportive environment of AWARE.

I will miss each and every one of my AWARE sisters. I will miss sitting with them on the comfy conference room couches during staff meetings. I will miss eating chocolate cake with them, laughing with them, and celebrating with them. They are a group of dedicated, passionate and fabulous women, and their love and acceptance will forever leave an imprint on my heart.

Women’s History Month Timeline of Achievements

1920 - AUGUST 26th: The 19th Amendment to the Constitution is passed giving women the right to vote.

1960 - The Food and Drug Administration approves the use and distribution of birth control pills.

1963 - June 10th, Congress passes the Equal Pay Act making it illegal for employers to pay a woman less than a man for doing the same job.

1966 - The organization NOW (National Organization for Women) is formed. With over 500,000 contributing members and 550 chapters, their goal is to bring about equality for all women and end sexual discrimination, especially in the workplace.

1973 - Roe v Wade. The Supreme Court established a woman’s right to a safe and legal abortion.

1978 - The Pregnancy Discrimination Act is formed banning employment discrimination against pregnant women.

1994 - The Violence Against Women Act tightens federal penalties for sex offenders, funds services for victims of rape and domestic violence, and provides for special training of police officers.

1997 - MARCH 8th: AWARE’s First Annual Women of Distinction dinner is held to coincide with International Women’s Day, and to honor Justine Emerson, Caren Robinson, Linda Torgerson
Employment Opportunities At AWARE

Program Director

Under the direction of the Executive Director, the Program Director supervises residential victim services and AWARE’s batterer intervention program, the Juneau Batterer Accountability Program (JBAP).

Qualifications:
- Excellent organizational skills
- Excellent leadership skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work well with both staff, program participants and members of the community
- Knowledge of domestic violence, and sexual assault
- Supervisory experience
- Experience working in a domestic violence shelter
- Ability to write quarterly reports and provide program statistics
- Knowledge and ability to:
  - facilitate psycho-educational groups,
  - work with women and children in domestic violence and/or sexual assault situations,
  - work with male perpetrators of domestic violence
- Ability to keep detailed and accurate records/files
- Ability to present information about AWARE or domestic violence/sexual assault to the public
- Graduate degree in a related field or years of experience

Salary: Commensurate with experience and education.

Legal Advocate

Work directly w/ victims of domestic violence, sexual assault to safety plan, identify civil options, assist w/pro se paperwork & court accompaniment.

Qualifications:
- Excellent communication & organizational skills
- Domestic violence/sexual assault or paralegal exp.
- HS diploma/GED
- Study or exp. in social work/ counseling/ women’s studies, legal or related field helpful.

Salary: 20 hrs/wk. $14/Hr. DOE.

Maintenance Worker

Provide minor maintenance & repairs to AWARE’s facility

Salary: 4-8 hrs/wk. $15/Hr.

Office Assistant

Answer & direct multi-line phone
Greet visitors
Provide support for program staff
Responsible for office supplies, quarterly newsletter, database, bulk mailings.

Qualifications:
- Requires strong writing, interpersonal & organizational skills
- Self-motivation & multi-tasking in a busy office
- Req. valid AK driver’s lic., HS diploma or GED
- MS Office exp.

Salary: Min. 30 hrs/wk. $13/Hr. DOE.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please apply by sending your resume and letter of interest as soon as possible to:
AWARE, P.O. Box 20809, Juneau, Alaska 99802
(phone) 907-586-6623 - (fax) 907-586-2479  EEO.

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.
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.