Sexual Assault Awareness Month, observed in April, is a month dedicated to making a concerted effort to raise awareness of sexual violence and promote its prevention within communities. AWARE hosted our annual Take Back the Night (TBTN) event which was a great success. This success was a direct reflection of the dedication and commitment of Juneau residents and representatives in a zero tolerance policy for violence against women and children, as well as a testimony to the power of community in the journey towards healing.
Take Back the Night

AWARE believes it is a community’s responsibility to keep women and children safe by holding perpetrators of these crimes accountable and extends gratitude for this shared vision.

Take Back the Night 2006 marks a tremendous step forward for our state with the passing legislation of SB218 which governor Murkowski signed into law at the rally; this bill requires longer sentences and requires polygraphs for sex offenders. Kate Burkhart rallied for us at the Capitol building and led us in the march to Centennial Hall. Dignitaries and advocates spoke at the rally, recognizing this issue as a priority. Courageous individuals, including eloquent teenagers, spoke out about their experiences of victimization. It was moving for us at AWARE to have our legislation and community partners respond to this issue with such heartfelt words.

The Xaadas Git A Lang dancers closed the event with traditional songs and dances. The evening ended with the strength of the drumbeat, the beauty of the dancers, and a heartfelt celebration of different traditions coming together to speak out for peace.

AWARE believes it is a community’s responsibility to keep women and children safe by holding perpetrators of these crimes accountable and extends gratitude for this shared vision.

Let’s Stop Violence Before it Starts!

Are you interested in collaborating with other community organizations to prevent interpersonal violence?

Please join the DELTA (Domestic Violence Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances) staff and the Coordinated Community Response team for monthly planning meetings. All members of our community are invited whether you are a professional or a concerned citizen.

For more information, contact Laurel Carr-Michael at (907) 586-6623 or by email: deltacoord@aware.alaska.com.
Thoughts and Thanks

It’s taken me a while to get started on this thoughts and thanks, and I know it’s because of a recent change at AWARE. My heart is full with gratitude and appreciation for my partner in providing leadership at AWARE, Natalie Powers, AWARE’s Program Director for the past four years. Natalie has served in this position throughout my tenure as Executive Director, and her skills and abilities have brought tremendous growth to AWARE. Natalie’s presence at AWARE increased our ability to provide meaningful services to those impacted by domestic violence, survivors, children in the crossfire, perpetrators, professionals and community members. She provided wonderful support for staff at AWARE, and oversaw development and growth of the Juneau Batterers Accountability Program. She was an exceptional model—her openness and understanding of the complexities surrounding violence against women and children and each individual’s unique process of recovering from that violence allowed for tremendous growth for many people on many levels.

I am thankful for what Natalie brought to AWARE, and I am thankful for what she will be taking with her when she begins her new job at the State of Alaska, Office of Children’s Services, as Staff Manager for the Southeast Region. All of Southeast will benefit greatly from her vast fund of knowledge, consistent good judgment, and unmitigated integrity.

In some ways, I also would like to recognize Natalie for our new Program Director, because I believe Natalie’s respect and love for our work at AWARE created an atmosphere for Ann Ropp to emerge. Ann joined the AWARE staff this summer, gaining practical experience as the 4 to midnight advocate. As Assistant Professor of Psychology and coordinator of women and gender studies at UAS, she and we fully expected she’d return full time to the university in the fall. I am now proud to introduce and welcome her as AWARE’s Program Director. She brings a breadth of knowledge and experience, and a sense of self which seems to enable her to comfortably manage whatever comes her way. I am thankful for Ann’s presence at AWARE, her willingness to take on new challenges. I look forward to all that she will bring and all that we will learn from her.

We are lucky groups of people, AWARE and OCS staff, and the individuals and families we serve; together we will continue to learn and grow from our co-workers, about ourselves and about our work to create safe environments where women and children live in peace and freedom.
Hello Everyone!

My name is Ann Ropp, and I’m very excited to be joining the staff at AWARE. As Program Director, I oversee shelter services, coordinate the Juneau Batterers Accountability Program (JBAP), co-facilitate a weekly men’s group, and co-facilitate a Healthy Relationships class for women.

I have a Ph.D. in Psychology, and for the last two years I’ve worked at the University of Alaska Southeast teaching both psychology and women’s studies classes. My research examines women’s reactions to sexist discrimination, and I’m looking forward to applying my academic knowledge in a more applied setting.

AWARE is a great resource in our community, and I’m proud to be joining the fabulous team here. Please let me know if you have any questions about AWARE or what AWARE can do for you.

Take care, Ann

Ann Ropp, Ph.D.
AWARE Program Director

My goal when I went to college years ago was to become a Renaissance Woman—and I think I am pretty close to reaching that mark.

I have been a journalist, graphic artist, stained glass window maker, rug maker, weaver and am now a master gardener.

My major in college the first time around was French, and English and French Literature. The second time around, I obtained a paralegal degree.

Since returning to work after being home with my family, I have worked largely in the non-profit sector. I am really enjoying my work and the wonderful individuals here that I have the pleasure to work with (sorry about the dangling participle)!

Deborah Johnson
Office Assistant

I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce myself to AWARE members and community collaborators. I moved to Juneau last August and have spent this past year completing the Outdoor Studies and Leadership Program through the University of Alaska Southeast, as well as working as a relief advocate here at AWARE.

I began my position as the Volunteer Coordinator in April. I am gratified to be working in an environment committed to peace and justice. The anti-violence movement is very much my heart’s path.

Ati Nasiah
Volunteer Coordinator

Continued on Page 5
Continued from Page 4

**Ati Nasiah, Volunteer Coordinator**

It is my hope to grow and empower myself as well as individuals in the communities we serve. My background is a combination of social service positions focused on teen education and women's advocacy. I worked with Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS) in Oregon both as the Teen Dating Violence Resource and Education Coordinator and later as the Volunteer Coordinator. I had the opportunity to work both in the realms of prevention through education, and intervention through crisis advocacy and support group facilitation. I have my B.A. in Peace Studies which has provided a good foundation for a long journey of learning.

My summer is packed with adventures. I recently returned from my first mountaineering trip in the Wrangell St. Elias range climbing Mt. Bona (the largest volcano in N. America!) I am off again in just a few weeks into the Interior to float Beaver Creek into the Yukon flats, soaking up the midnight sun and hopefully catching lots of salmon. In the fall I will settle back into Juneau and into AWARE for a new set of adventures challenging the myths and misconceptions that allow and condone violence against women and children.

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**Advocacy Training**

**Starts**

**August 21st!**

Training Topics include:
- Dynamics of Domestic Violence
- Dynamics of Sexual Assault
- Advocacy Skills
- Child Abuse
- Cultural Competency

To register or for more information contact: Ati Nasiah @ 586-6623 or volcoord@aware.alaska.com
What is Responsible Fatherhood?

By Natalie Powers, MSW

Natalie is the former program director at AWARE and co-facilitator for the Juneau Batterer Accountability Program, Juneau’s certified batterer intervention program for court-ordered domestic violence offenders.

Responsible fatherhood is an issue identified by the Bush administration as a national priority. The Federal Government recognizes the growing social trend of children living in fatherless homes as a highly disturbing statistic.

According to some research, growing up fatherless may have potentially serious negative consequences for children such as an increased likelihood of juvenile delinquency or adult criminal activity, emotional and behavioral problems and school truancy. Promoting a pro-fatherhood agenda has translated into millions of dollars being budgeted for creative initiatives that promote responsible fatherhood. The National Fatherhood Initiative or NFI is one of the products of this campaign.

The National Fatherhood Initiative has a website “Fatherhood Online” (www.fatherhood.org) that functions to promote public education and provide resources to men to help them be better dads. On this website is a brochure that lists “10 Ways to Be a Better Dad.” The first thing on this list is “Respect Your Children’s Mother.”

With Father’s Day recently celebrated it seemed timely that AWARE’s men’s program, (the Juneau Batterer Accountability Program) spent several class sessions in June focused on responsible fatherhood and what it means to be in an equitable relationship where parenting is shared. During one group exercise, the men were asked to list their ideas about what it takes to be a good and nurturing father. They came up with some standard things like, “spend quality time with your children; be a good role model; show an interest; give them affirmations; show affection, etc.” One person listed “be good to your child’s mother.” This helped to spark a conversation about the importance of supporting mothers. Being a good father is not just about a dad’s relationship with his kids; it is also about the relationship with the child’s mother regardless of whether the parents are together.

As women’s advocates we often hear the victims we work with say something similar to, “he may be abusive to me but he is still a good dad.” It can’t be reiterated enough that being a good and nurturing father is incompatible with being abusive to the child’s mother. How can someone who is truly a good father terrorize, hurt and/or over time diminish the quality of life for the mother of their children?

Qualities that abusive men consistently exhibit: they are self-centered, controlling, frequently disregard their partner with high levels of contempt and disrespect, manipulative, skillfully dishonest; and have an exaggerated sense of entitlement which causes them to believe they have special rights and privileges that don’t apply to the rest of the family. In essence, these qualities directly contradict the qualities and behaviors that are synonymous with our expectations of a good father.
Dear Friends,

AWARE provides comprehensive prevention and intervention services to address domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse in Juneau and Northern Southeast Alaska. Please take a few moments to assess AWARE’s services and tell us what you think! For more information about our services, or if you’d like to share your ideas, please contact me directly at 586.6623. We appreciate and look forward to your response.

Saralyn Tabachnick, Executive Director

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AWARE, Inc.
Community Needs Assessment

AWARE provides the following services for the community of Juneau. Please rank their importance.

a. Emergency shelter to female victims and their children ……………………..1 2 3 4
b. 24-Hour Crisis Line ………………………………………………………………1 2 3 4
c. Advocacy and services for residents…………………………………………...1 2 3 4
d. Legal advocacy – protective orders, divorce, custody, etc………………… 1 2 3 4
e. Children’s Advocacy……………………………………………………………...1 2 3 4
f. Medical Advocacy………………………………………………………………   1 2 3 4
g. Education Groups:
   Domestic Violence …………………………………….…………… 1 2 3 4
   Sexual Assault……………………………………………………… ..1 2 3 4
   Chemical Dependency……………………………………………….1 2 3 4
   Family Dynamics…………………………………………………… 1 2 3 4
   Healthy Relationships Class for women…………….……………..1 2 3 4
   Life Skills Group for children………………………….……………..1 2 3 4
h. Support Groups
   Circle of Healing for survivors……………………………………………1 2 3 4
   Parent’s Support Group…………………………………………….. 1 2 3 4
   A Window Between Worlds Group for children……………………1 2 3 4

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<th>Essential</th>
<th>Useful or Informative</th>
<th>Optional</th>
<th>Not Appropriate</th>
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<tr>
<td>i. Play therapy and counseling for children and youth</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>j. Information/Referral Services</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>k. Rural Outreach</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>l. Education/Prevention</td>
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<td>In schools</td>
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<td>For professionals</td>
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<tr>
<td>In community</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>DELTA Teen Prevention</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>m. Juneau Batterers Accountability Program (JBAP)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>n. Membership Newsletter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>o. Community Coordination</td>
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<tr>
<td>I. What other services should AWARE provide for the community?</td>
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<td>II. Should AWARE offer other workshops on Women’s issues?</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☐ No</td>
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<td>If “yes”, on what topic(s)?</td>
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<td>III. Comments / ideas that you think would be helpful to AWARE.</td>
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<td>IV. Which Southeast Alaska community are you from?</td>
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<td>V. Are you: ☐ program participant ☐ member of AWARE ☐ representing community agency</td>
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Please detach and return this questionnaire to us at: P.O. Box 20809 Juneau, Alaska 99802

You may also fax to: (907) 586-2479
Children’s Groups Available at AWARE

AWARE offers two groups for children; *Life Skills* and *A Window Between Worlds*. Both groups provide children with an opportunity to practice and develop their decision making, socialization and communication skills. Children’s Advocates Carolyn LeVeque and Emily Noem plan and facilitate the groups based on the ages of children attending.

Groups are open to residents of AWARE and community members alike, and AWARE is often able to provide transportation. *Life skills* group is held Tuesday evenings from 6–8 p.m. This is a six week series addressing the topics; *Families & Change, Personal Boundaries, Problem Solving* and *Conflict Resolution, Naming and Expressing Feelings, Keeping it Safe at Home, and Substance Use and Abuse*. Groups typically include an educational component, relevant activity

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**WINDOW BETWEEN WORLDS: CHILDREN’S ART AT AWARE**

*BY CAROLINE LEVEQUE, AMERICORPS VOLUNTEER AT AWARE*

Working as an advocate is difficult when you focus on outcomes, rather than processes. Healing from and exploring the effects of domestic and sexual violence takes time, and progress is not easy to define. I have been facilitating a children’s art group using project ideas from *A Window Between Worlds*, a nonprofit organization dedicated to using art to help end domestic I feel good every Wednesday night. I feel honored to have two hours to interact with kids and encourage their creativity, to play with them, to get to know them. I like being able to (watercolors, clay) and to observe their processes of exploring.

Our program is not art therapy. It is not intended to diagnose children with disorders. Its intent is to provide art as a tool for personal growth and a method of creative expression. I’m not an art teacher. I am not trained in art methods. Luckily, I like playing with art supplies. It wasn’t until I came to AWARE and started working with the children that I realized that I already am making art. Advocacy is also an art: it is passion and creative thinking and dedication. It is marvelous.

The Window’s program has changed how I think art could be: art, the process, frustrating at times but never a failure. Words of encouragement, praise for effort and choices are important tools to help the children believe that what they make and who they are matters. I try to

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*Drawing by participant in *A Window Between Worlds* program at AWARE*
It’s Time to See, Hear and Speak of Abuse

by Rev. Dr. Marie Fortune

For centuries, religion has been a roadblock for women seeking escape from the brutality in their homes. Through text or teaching, religion has made it virtually impossible at times for women to seek shelter, safety or consider divorce.

Many wife abusers use religion to excuse their behavior through quotes from Scripture or by interpreting teachings such as the one used by an accused wife abuser to justify marital rape. The defendant claimed the Catholic Church had taught him that he had free sexual access to his wife at any time. For him, that meant breaking down her locked door and forcing her to have sex.

On the contrary, in 1992 the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops released the following statement: "As pastors of the Catholic Church in the United States, we state clearly and strongly ... that violence against women, inside or outside the home, is never justified. Violence in any form -- physical, sexual, psychological or verbal -- is sinful." The statement, reissued in 2004, is a step in the right direction and could be used to support wider public awareness.

In fact, religious leaders and their teachings have the capacity to be abundant resources for battered women or rape victims and those who abuse them. But we must have a clear agenda -- one of safety, healing and justice for the most vulnerable rather than an agenda of no see, no hear, no speak, which protects domestic violence and rape behind the curtain of privacy.

April was National Sexual Violence Prevention Month. On April 5th, 42 national religious leaders from various denominations and movements acknowledged that we have been part of the problem and declared that, in the future, we will be part of the solution.

On behalf of the signers, Rabbi Elliot Dorff from the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, Imam Mohamed Magid from the Islamic Society of North America, Maj. Marilyn White from the Salvation Army and the National Association of Evangelicals, and I launched The National Declaration by Religious Leaders to Address Violence Against Women.

The declaration will be distributed to battered women’s shelters and rape crisis centers in the United States. Shelter residents can scan the names and determine whether their faith group supports them in seeking safety for themselves and their children. We urge more religious groups, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and other individuals and faith-based groups, to add their names to the Declaration at www.faithtrustinstitute.org

As religious leaders from very diverse traditions, we rarely agree on anything. But in the National Declaration by Religious Leaders to Address Violence Against Women, we speak with one voice. As religious leaders join with community leaders, we will see ancient roadblocks become resources that save lives and bring healing. And we will eventually see the day when domestic violence and rape are peculiar, rare events in our communities and faith groups rather than the common, everyday tragedies that touch so many lives.
How Our Garden

In the spirit of health and growth we have started a garden project initiated by Volunteer Coordinator Ati Nasiah for AWARE residents and staff. This is our first year and it has been a wonderful learning experience for staff working on the project. Growing on the back porch we have lettuce, kale, collards, broccoli, squash, zucchini, basil, beans, and sweet peas. For flowers we have sunflowers, mixed flowers, poppies, dahlias, and my personal favorite, Crocosmia (beautiful delicate red flowers.)

Children at the shelter helped plant seeds, water the starts, and transplant them into the beds on the back porch. It has been very special watching both women and children at the shelter nurture these plants and comment on their growth and transformation, qualities inherent in us all. This garden is a great reminder to slow down, notice and water the flowers, allowing growth to happen at its own natural pace.

Thank You for Your Donations

Juneau Police Dept. Judy Macnair
LaRae Jones            Carolyn Hess
Susan Parrish         Judy Cole
Mel Seibel           Mary Steinfeld
Jo Dawson          Donna Staton
Sue McGregor       Jane MacKinnon
Kathryn Toth        Valerie Mertz
Julie Shelton       Caren Robinson
Janice Schultz       Marina Lindsey
Kristin Cieciel       Patricia McLear
Juneau Montessori    Wellspring
Constance Trollan
Ryan Sotomayor

Alaska Airlines
Pauline Baker
Icy Strait Point
Love, Inc.
Girl Scouts Troop #9
Val Horner
Sally Wilson
Amy Skilbred
Tongass Girl Scouts
Janae Reese
Solea Haight

Juneau Montessori
Constance Trollan
Ryan Sotomayor

PEO Sisterhood Chapter D
Chapel by the Lake Board
of Deacons
Elizabeth and Sydney
Smith
Gita Thanarajasingam
Girlscouts Troop #29
Island of Faith Lutheran
Church
Capital City Quilters
Cyril Wanamaker
AWARE’s mission is to provide safe shelter and supportive services for women and children who have been subject to domestic or sexual violence; and to effect the social political and legal changes needed to eliminate oppression and violence against women and children.

**Executive Director**
Saralyn Tabachnick

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**AWARE Staff**

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<td>Program Director</td>
<td>Ann Ropp</td>
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