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Pictured above are members of the Elgee Rehfeld Mertz Staff, tired but satisfied after working hard at AWARE for the United Way Day of Caring, which was held October 6. They painted, moved furniture, scrubbed walls and gardened. Many thanks to ERM and United Way of Southeast Alaska.

Members of the staff who participated are: Max Mertz, George Elgee, Bob Rehfeld, Julie Olson, Gayle Starbard, Sarah Heubschen, Helen Axenova, Nyalambi Mulwanda, Amanda Bagoyo, Dante Reyes, Teresa Schimanski and DJ Lindsay.
What are the benefits of volunteering?

- develop a sense of place in your community
- improve your health
- meet new people
- opportunity to connect with amazing, strong women
- learn and develop skills
- develop network contacts
- be an agent for change
- build self esteem and self confidence
Thoughts and Thanks from Saralyn

Indulge me as I tell you about my heart. It breaks often, sometimes two or three times a day. It breaks at times you might most suspect: a woman comes to AWARE with two black eyes, given to her by the man she loves; a child screams with fear to be away from his mom, for even a few minutes; a teenager stays awake at night, listening for her mother's breathing... and it breaks at less obvious times: an AWARE advocate asks a woman how living with abuse has impacted her children, has impacted her finances, has impacted her view of herself, and as she reflects, there's a shift somewhere, about what she and her children deserve, about what's fair, about a willingness and desire to accept whatever support she needs as she stands for herself... and it breaks with the outpouring of generosity and thoughtfulness AWARE received this holiday season: your individual responses to our request for year end donations, your responses to our Adopt-a-Family program to strive for a great Christmas holiday for families who wouldn't have it without your help, your phone calls one day asking, "what do you need?" and the next day delivering the brand new vacuum cleaner, or movie passes, or checks for us to meet those needs.

This is a tremendous community of giving and receiving that AWARE is privileged to be a part of; we are thankful to give, and we are thankful to receive, and this circulation breaks open my heart with the kindness and bigheartedness of your support; it is with like kindness and bigheartedness that we support the women and children who use our services.

Thank you for being a part of AWARE; we couldn't do it without you. We wish you all the best in 2007, for a happy and healthy new year of peace and for a circulation in your life and your community, of the gifts of giving and receiving.
January is National Stalking Awareness Month

Myth: Only celebrities are stalked.
Reality: 1.4 million people are stalked every year in the United States. We may hear more about celebrity stalking cases in the media, but the vast majority of stalking victims are ordinary citizens.

Myth: If you ignore stalking, it will go away.
Reality: Stalkers seldom “just stop.” In fact, behaviors can turn more and more violent as time goes by. Victims should seek help from advocates, law enforcement and the courts to intervene to stop the stalking.

Myth: Stalking is creepy but not dangerous.
Reality: Stalking is creepy and dangerous. Three out of four women who were murdered by an intimate partner had been previously stalked by their killer.

Myth: Stalking is annoying but not illegal.
Reality: Stalking is a crime under the laws of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the federal government.

Myth: You can’t be stalked by someone you are still dating.
Reality: If your current girlfriend or boyfriend tracks your every move or follows you around in a way that causes you fear, that is stalking.

Myth: Modern surveillance technology is too expensive and confusing for most stalkers to use.
Reality: Stalkers can buy surveillance software and hardware for as little as $30 and can easily track the victim’s every move on a computer.

Myth: If you confront the stalker, he’ll go away.
Reality: Stalkers can be unreasonable and unpredictable. Confronting or trying to reason with a stalker can be dangerous.

For more information go to the Stalking Resource Center of the National Center for Victims of Crime at www.ncvc.org/src
Women of Distinction 2007

AWARE, Inc. is privileged to announce the honorees of our twelfth annual Women of Distinction Award.

The honorees are:

Joyanne Bloom, Ann Lockhart, Delores Cadiente, and Connie Munro.

These four Juneau women have made significant and outstanding contributions to our community and to improving the lives of women and children. Their accomplishments will be honored by AWARE at the Women of Distinction Dinner and Silent Auction at Centennial Hall on Saturday, March 10, 2007.

The public is invited to attend and can purchase tickets by calling 586-6623. Funds raised from the dinner and silent auction support services to those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse in Juneau and the nine Southeast communities of...
The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) is extremely outraged to hear that O.J. Simpson intends to release a book detailing how he could have murdered his ex-wife and her friend.

While Simpson was acquitted of their deaths in a criminal trial, he was found liable in a civil trial and ordered to pay restitution to the Brown and Goldman families. To date, Simpson has refused to comply with the court order. NNEDV and domestic violence advocates nationwide are appalled that he is instead attempting to cash in on their gruesome murders.

Even more disturbing is the impact this selfish, arrogant act will undoubtedly have on Nicole’s children, Sydney and Justin. They had to endure the grisly murder of their mother and the controversy of the trial against their father. How will they feel knowing that their father is not only profiting from their mother’s murder, but he is also offering a morbid, detailed description of how he could have done it?

Three women are murdered every day at the hands of their intimate partners. It is unconscionable to think that Simpson, ReganBooks, HarperCollins Publishers, and FOX would promote a how-to guide for killing your wife.

This book has no place in our society and only causes more grief for the Brown and Goldman families and for the battered women and children across the country. Our hearts go out to the families being re-traumatized by this senseless act of greed.

NNEDV urges the public to take a stand and let FOX, ReganBooks and HarperCollins know that we will not allow them to make abuse and murder acceptable in our communities. We also ask that you contact your local bookstores and FOX advertisers and ask them to withdraw their support from the ReganBooks, HarperCollins and FOX.

November 20, 2006 — The Chairman of the News Corporation issued a statement today announcing that it will not broadcast an interview with O.J. Simpson or publish the book he wrote about the murders of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

“I and senior management agree that this was an ill-considered project,” News Corporation chairman Rupert Murdoch said in a statement released today. “We are sorry for any pain that it has caused the Goldman and Brown families.”

In an announcement on Fox News, an anchor said that the decision to cancel the TV special to air the interview and to shelve the book was prompted by viewer outrage.
New Staff at AWARE

Legal Advocate, Anne Bennett —

I grew up in a small conservative town in Eastern Ohio. I studied Criminal Justice and Psychology in college with a dual interest in working with teenagers experiencing crisis in their home life and working with offenders already in the criminal justice system. I interned in Juvenile Probation in the late 70's when issues of sexual and physical abuse, juvenile delinquency and runaways were treated differently than today. In 1980 I decided to move to Alaska to seek work. My work experience in Alaska has included employment with the State Dept of Corrections, first as a counselor, then as a probation officer working with adult offenders, and later with what is now called the Division of Juvenile Justice as an intake probation officer and then a supervisor of juvenile probation. During part of this employment we covered for Family Services and did emergency after hours placement of abused or neglected children. I have also volunteered over the years with several organizations in the social service fields. I am currently working as the legal advocate in a job share position with Eve Southworth. I am married and have three great kids ages 20, 17, and 14. We also have 5 canine members of our family.

Shelter Advocate, Jamie Ginn —

Was born in West Palm Beach, FL but raised in interior Alaska in a town called Chitina. She drove an hour to and from school every day from elementary school through high school. She graduated from Kenny Lake School in 2005, and now is attending UAS going for a Bachelor of Social Science with an emphasis in Psychology. She loves to read, play volleyball, go dancing, travel, learn, and do kickboxing. She has a sister, two brothers, two foster brothers, and one niece. Jamie is excited to be working for AWARE and looking forward to getting to know everyone.

Legal Advocate, Eve Southworth —

For the past year I have been working as an Americorps VISTA volunteer at the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's Legal Advocacy Project, and I am continuing to work there part-time. At the Network, I distribute resources, maintain the website, and work on technology safety and legal advocacy issues. I grew up outside of Boston, MA and went to Connecticut College in New London, CT. I majored in social history and minored in art. After graduation I worked as a deckhand/educator on the sailing vessel, Amistad, which is a recreation of an 1830's ship. Onboard the original, African captives who were to be sold as slaves rebelled and took over the vessel. But, enough of the history lesson! Last November, I moved to Juneau to work at ANDVSA. Alaska is a beautiful state and I am so glad to be here in Juneau! I'm also excited to be working at AWARE! When I'm not at AWARE or ANDVSA, I do things that don't involve acronyms, such as hiking, running, rock climbing, salsa dancing, and sitting around. I'm looking forward to working with everyone!
**Pets Included in Maine Protective Orders**

Maine recently set a new precedent by passing the first state law to include pets in protective orders.

It is not uncommon to hear reports of animals being hurt or killed by an abusive partner in violent relationships. Animals, oftentimes, are an easy target for abusers who use the animal as a tool to retain control over a victim.

During a public hearing for the bill in January, survivor Susan Walsh testified that she remained in an abusive relationship for twelve years, in part because she feared for the lives of her domestic pets and farm animals. In the past, Walsh’s former husband had shot two of her sheep and ran over her handicapped border with his vehicle.

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**AWARE Wish List**

- Pillows
- Towels
- Toilet paper, paper towels, copy paper, black pens
- Heavy duty flashlights and batteries
- Bus tokens
- Children’s music
  (complete Raffi collection)
- Young children’s educational videos
- One large yoga ball to use as a chair
- New dishwasher for AWARE’s kitchen
- Vacuums in excellent working condition
- Call Child Advocates at 586-6623 for Children’s Program needs
New TRAIN Volunteers to Begin Service

On December 17, 2006, a group of 17 youth graduated from AWARE’s 40 hour TRAIN training.

AWARE staff, parents and friends were invited to the graduation ceremony and desert potluck. The conference room was packed with people and a great sense of pride and accomplishment. It was awesome!

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Every Sunday since October between 4-8 pm teens have been gathering at AWARE to eat yummy food together, learn about domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, conflict resolution, and more... It was a pretty amazing process of self-discovery and empowerment. The impact of this program for teens has been profound and very moving to witness.

Teens are now eligible to apply as volunteer crisis line advocates for the NEW TEEN CRISIS LINE in which they receive a stipend for their work and/or are eligible to apply as peer educators empowering their peers with information and education in the schools.

New TRAIN volunteers will begin January 21st for this exciting new phase of the program. As of January 15th TRAIN is offering a 10 week teen support group at AWARE for teen victims of domestic or sexual violence. Teens who are interested should contact me to register as space is limited. It has been a great journey supporting these youth throughout this program and I have great confidence in the impact of these teens on letting others teens know about this train committed to safety and peace offering a journey of healing and strength to teens throughout Juneau!

Ati Nasiah
Volunteer Coordinator
volcoord@aware.alaska.com
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.