



Annual Report 2008
VIBS Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center
Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk



SERVING OUR MISSION

For more than 30 years, VIBS has been a trusted source of safety, empowerment and hope for individuals and families across Suffolk County. As a domestic violence and rape crisis center, VIBS provides a wide array of services for victims and their children: advocacy, court accompaniment, individual and group counseling, and 24-hour hotline assistance. Prevention is a key component of VIBS' mission, and VIBS provides educational programs to school and community groups, with a special emphasis on teens. In partnership with the criminal justice system, VIBS' HALT program holds offenders accountable to end violence and abusive behavior. In the wider community, the staff and board work to raise community awareness of the need for justice and compassion for victims.

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Pamela C. Johnston
Executive Director



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Dear Friends and Supporters,

We all hear and read such terrible things in the news. So many children are abused and neglected. There are so many stories about sexual predators using the internet to feed their sickness. Far too many victims are stalked, abused, even murdered by their partners. Eventually, one of these stories becomes personal: it happens to someone we know. Or it happens to us.

These stories or others like them, some not as severe and some even worse, are the stories of VIBS. At VIBS' most recent Spring Benefit, a woman named Michele described how she was nearly killed by her husband in the presence of their children. She felt desperate and alone with her two little girls while waiting in the corridor outside a courtroom, eyes closed in silent prayer, when she felt a hand on her shoulder and heard someone speaking to her: "Are you Michele? I'm Monique from VIBS — I'm here to help."

VIBS' advocates represent the front line of the movement to end intimate partner violence. Advocates like Monique helped close to 900 victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in 2008. VIBS' counselors provided individual or group counseling to nearly 1,000 adults and children. Our community education program reached over 19,000 adolescents and adults. Through community partnerships and a host of other initiatives VIBS works to raise awareness, improve systems, and ultimately change a culture in which family violence and sexual assault thrive.

In spite of our accomplishments, VIBS, like most non-profits, faces daunting challenges. For VIBS the year 2008 represented the calm before the storm. We knew the economy was headed for a deep recession but it hadn't really hit us yet. Most of our government contracts were intact, and our fund raising income, while lower than the previous year, was enough to end the year with a small surplus. VIBS' foundation of government and private support, the good will of the community, and its dedicated board of directors and staff will insure that the agency will survive the severe funding cuts that face us as our community and nation recover from the recession.



Pamela C. Johnston
Executive Director



Lynda Perdomo-Ayala
President



VIBS' core programs include counseling, advocacy, hotline, children's services, accountability-based groups for domestic violence offenders, preventive education and outreach, elder abuse intervention, and the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program. In spite of a slowing economy, VIBS was able to introduce some new projects or expansions.

Rape and sexual assault were front and center for VIBS in 2008. New this year was a more comprehensive approach to preventive education. Adopting a health based approach to preventing sexual violence among teens and young adults, VIBS partnered with Stony Brook University to saturate the student population with information and skills. The idea was to create a zero tolerance climate for sexual assault by reducing risk factors, engaging bystanders to interrupt demeaning or threatening remarks and behaviors, and enhancing policies that promote safety. Together VIBS and University professionals are training staff and student leaders to be "VIBS Campus Violence Prevention Specialists". We hope that more funding will follow, so that we can expand on this model to reach teens and young adults in a growing number of communities.

The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program has seen more patients every year at the three locations at Good Samaritan Hospital, Mather Hospital, and Peconic Bay Medical Center. We were able to recruit and arrange for the training of additional nurses in 2008. SANEs rotate a 24-hour on-call schedule

to be called to one of these hospitals to provide forensic exams and health care to adults and children traumatized physically and emotionally by sexual assault. During 2008, VIBS began working with Stony Brook University to plan for the opening of a SANE Center at the University Hospital.

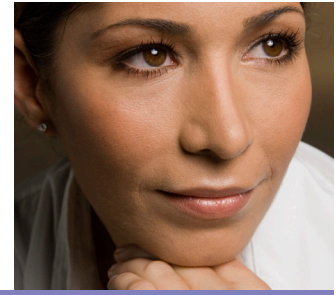
In spite of the great need to provide intervention for child victims and witnesses, there never seem to be enough resources for children, even though services to traumatized children are the best investments we can make in preventing abuse in the future. Thanks to funding from the NYS Crime Victims Board, in 2008 VIBS' **children's program** added services to child victims of incest. A positive outcome for traumatized children depends on competent and caring therapy, involvement of care givers, and positive interaction with the criminal justice and child protective systems. The success of our work with children is due to the training and experience of VIBS' children's program staff, and strong relationships forged over the years with these protective systems. Using creative arts therapy, VIBS facilitates healing and safety for children who have witnessed domestic violence or have been sexually abused.

VIBS has long partnered with schools, criminal justice services, the courts, substance abuse agencies, and other domestic violence agencies. In 2008 we formed a new and promising partnership with United Cerebral Palsy of Suffolk (UCP). Thanks to funding from the federal Violence Against Women Office, we were awarded \$600,000 for a 3-year project to develop service and training models for assessment and **services to disabled**

women who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. On VIBS' part, we are eager to learn how to make our programs more accessible for all survivors.

The largest number of adults participating in VIBS' programs are survivors of domestic violence. In 2008 VIBS instituted a financial education module to group counseling. Financial abuse is often a component of family violence, and frequently the victim has little access to or knowledge of the family finances. With the poor economy, abused women face hard choices if they leave an abusive relationship. Thanks to a grant from the Allstate Foundation, VIBS provided basic financial education to clients, such as banking skills, balancing a checkbook, repairing poor credit, and saving.

Many of our clients have so little that they don't have the opportunity to exercise these basic skills. For those clients who are destitute, VIBS draws from a network of community support. Our services advocate has a wealth of knowledge about food banks and other emergency funds. Generous donors and community organizations provide emergency resources as well. At Thanksgiving 47 families faced a bleak holiday, and VIBS' friends provided them all with baskets of food. In December donors contributed gift cards to department stores such as Target, where clients could shop for food, clothes or toys for their families. The generosity of these donors throughout the year is overwhelming.



In 2008 VIBS provided the following:

Through **individual and group counseling** the following adults and adolescents improved their safety, found relief from the emotional trauma of abuse, and improved emotional and/or physical independence:

Adults, family violence	553
Adults, rape / sexual assault	151
Adolescents, relationship violence	21
Adolescents, rape / sexual assault	56
Children, family violence	127
Children, incest	35
Children, rape / sexual assault	8
Victims of elder abuse	44

There were 5,366 counseling sessions for adults and adolescents, and 1,854 sessions for children. The therapists in the children's programs provided 1,180 parent consultations.

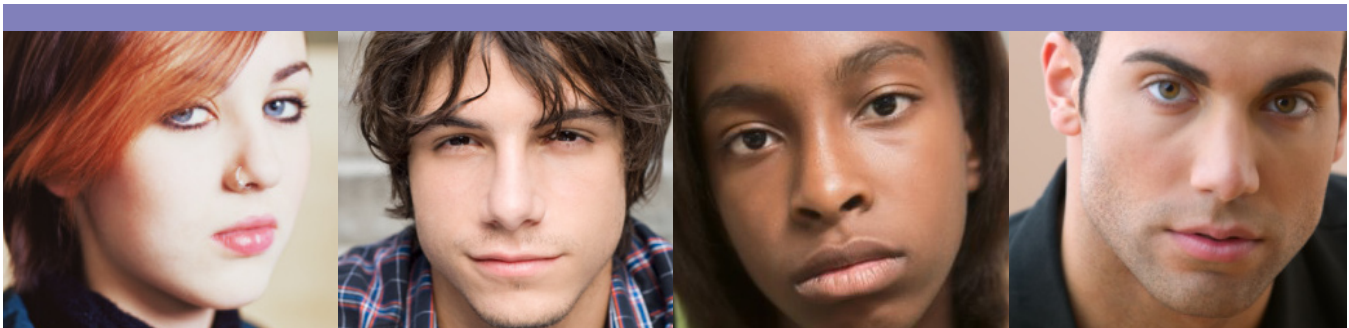
With the help of VIBS' advocates, **676 adults victims of relationship violence and 71 adult and child victims of rape and sexual assault** improved safety and gained knowledge of their rights as victims within the civil and criminal justice system. In addition 114 low income adult victims gained or improved their access to food, housing, job referrals and social services with the help of VIBS' services advocate. VIBS' advocates provided 1,326 court accompaniments for their clients, and there were a total of 4,212 client contacts, including telephone counseling, referrals, and office visits.

VIBS' **hotline** is often the first contact a victim has with VIBS. A call to the hotline may be the first step in recovering from abuse or seeking safety. VIBS handled 4, 966 hotline calls in 2008.

VIBS' **HALT program** works with the criminal justice system to hold domestic violence offenders accountable for their behavior and to promote change in their attitudes, belief systems, and actions. In 2008 **394 offenders, mostly court**

mandated, gained insight into their abusive behavior. The Department of Probation, the Courts, and Child Protective Services depend on HALT to reinforce sanctions and provide an opportunity to change.

Community Services represents many of the services VIBS provides outside of its main office or satellite locations. Through a total of 360 educational presentations to schools, community organizations and professionals, **11,615 individuals gained new information and insight into family violence and sexual assault.** In addition, hospital emergency rooms utilized VIBS' volunteer emergency room companions to help 171 victims of sexual assault or relationship violence. SANE nurses provided forensic examinations and compassionate health care to 240 victims of rape and sexual assault. Forty volunteers participated in VIBS' programs as emergency room companions or child care assistants.



SUMMARY: 2008 FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE AND SUPPORT:

Grants and contracts	\$ 1,718,254
Fees for Services	295,749
Other income	42,986
Total Revenue:	\$ 2,056,989

Contributions	64,433
Gross proceeds from special events	215,403
Less: direct benefits to donors	(95,795)
Net proceeds from special events	119,608

Total Support: \$ 184,041

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE \$ 2,241,030

EXPENSES:

Program Services	\$ 1,801,137
Management and general	328,784
Fundraising	105,425

Total Expenses: \$ 2,235,346

Change in Net Assets: 5,684

Net assets, beginning of year \$ 349,636

Net assets, end of year \$ 355,320

CORPORATE AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

AB Environmental
Ad-Apparel
Affinity Health Plan
Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Co. PC
Alcus Fuel
All Phase Air Conditioning Corp.
Allstate Gasket & Packing, Inc.
American Physical Society
Apptel, Inc.
Astoria Federal Savings
Babylon Village Women's Club
Bank of Smithtown
Blue Chip Financial Corp.
Blum's
Bottomline Technologies
Brecher, Fishman Attorneys at Law
Building & Construction Trades Council
CBD Design and Construction Corp.
Cerini & Associates, LLP
Civil Solutions Incorporated
Coalition on Child Abuse & Neglect
Com Bell Systems
Commerce Bank
Commercial Industrial Brokers
Complete Wireless Contracting, Inc.
CRK Contracting of Suffolk
Damin Sales Inc.

Davis Vision, Inc.
Debut Concrete Construction Corp.
Disc Graphics Inc.
Dorf Associates
Double Pole Electric
Duo Plumbing & Heating Corp.
EAC, Inc.
East Islip Lumber
Eldor Contracting Corp.
Enright Court Reporting, Inc.
First New York Title Agency, LTD
Fivestar Advertising
freshbrick advertising
GAM Contracting, Inc.
Good Samaritan Hospital Med Ctr.
Goodwin, Proctor & Hoar
Greenstone/Fontana
Heartland Business Center
Hopeful Stars
Independent Films Production
J. W. Hirschfeld Agency, Inc.
Jamie Winkler Real Estate
Jet Management Co.
John T. Mather Memorial Hospital
JP&C Communications
Kerrigan Country Realty, LLC
Koehler & Isaacs, LLP
Long Island Business News
M. Cary, Inc.
Marsh's
MRL Expediting

Mutual of America
Nassau-Suffolk Building Trades
Oak Creek Commons
O'Connell, Selig & Associates L.L.P
Oheka Management Corp.
Olympus
Peconic Bay Medical Center
Phillips, Weiner & Quinn
Premier Property Management, Inc.
Presbyterian Women of Deer Park
R. Wade Johnson Design
RBC Dain Rauscher
Rita F. Lai Agency, Inc.
Roland's Electric, Inc.
Rotary Club of Patchogue, Inc.
Seafield Center, Inc.
Smithtown Business & Professional Women Network
South Oaks Hospital
State Bank of Long Island
Stony Brook Foundation
Strategic Communications
Studio East
Suffolk County Detectives Association
Superior Officers Association
Sweet Dreams
The Resource Group, Inc.
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington
Women's Health Care of Suffolk
Zonta Charities of Suffolk, Inc.
Zorn's

MAJOR GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IN 2008

Suffolk County Departments of Social Services, Health Services, and Probation; New York State Crime Victims Board, Office of Children and Family Services, and Department of Criminal Justice Services; Town of Huntington

The following were instrumental in securing additional funding in 2008:

NYS Senators John J. Flanagan, Owen Johnson, Kenneth P. LaValle, Carl Marcellino, Caesar Trunzo; NYS Assembly Members James Conte, Patricia Eddington, Steve Engelbright, Phil Ramos; and all the members of the Suffolk County Legislature

FOUNDATIONS

Knapp Swezey Foundation, Inc.
Long Island Fund for Women & Girls
Marcie Mazzola Foundation
Pat Covelli Foundation
Eve Eskin Brown Foundation
United Way of Long Island

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