

**Our Mission:**  
*To end domestic violence by fostering institutional and social change through leadership development, education, research and community collaboration*

## CDV Updates

**Anna Davis** is now the Benefit Operation Specialist for the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. She just spearheaded a rule for a brand new benefit for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment services for risky substance use behaviors. Great Job Anna! Keep up the good work!

**Debra K. Adams** is the new Director of the YWCA Clark County Safechoice Domestic Violence Program. She is currently working on the specific issues of violence against native women; violence against women & disasters; human trafficking; and international violence against women. Fantastic Work Debra! Keep it up!

In May, 2010 **Barbara Paradiso**, Center on Domestic Violence Director, was appointed to the Governor's Domestic Violence Working Group

Congratulations to **Kath Schoen**, a Lecturer for the Center on Domestic Violence Lecturer and Director of the Access to Justice and Family Violence Programs of the Colorado Bar Association, who has won the 2010 American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic Violence Sharon Corbitt Award

## Congratulations to our Graduates!

**Spring 2010 Graduates:** Kristianna Michelle Berger, Rachel Ann Bettinger Cooney, Anna Mae Davis, Michelle Jeanne Hechinger, Elise Anne Hudson, Valerie Dee King Davis, Patricia J. McGill, and Heidi Randin.

**Fall 2010 Graduates:** Craig Metcalf and Pam Wright

**Well Done Everyone!**

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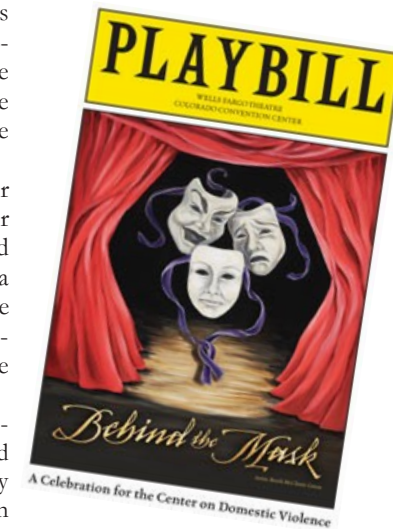


## CDV Connections

### Center's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Comes Center Stage

On the evening of October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Center on Domestic Violence held its 10th Anniversary Celebration, **Behind the Mask: Bringing Domestic Violence Center Stage** at the spectacular Wells Fargo Theatre in Denver. The event drew nearly 400 community leaders, students, alumni, supporters, policymakers and advocates from across the state and the nation. The program featured a poignant and compelling theatrical performance featuring the story of "Jenny," a victim of domestic violence who ultimately escapes her abuser and makes plans to dedicate her life to helping other battered women.

The dramatic performance underscored the need for the Center's academic, research and service programs. "For more than 30 years, concerted efforts have been made to end domestic violence yet the devastation continues," said Barbara Paradiso, Director of the Center on Domestic Violence. She added, "this event is dedicated to the millions of victims of domestic violence living behind a mask who must hide their abuse from friends and family out of shame and fear." Terrance Carroll, Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, served as the emcee for the evening. Joining Terrance and Barbara on the stage was Kathy Robertson, mother of Abby Robertson who was killed by her ex-boyfriend she met while in school on the Auraria Campus in 2007. (continued on page 2)



#### Inside this issue:

10th Anniversary Event Continued	2
Research Track: NCADV Conference	2
Highlighting DVRAC	2
END Violence Program Updates	3
PCA Updates	3
Graduate Updates	4
CDV Announcements	4

### Center Celebrates 10 Years of Accomplishments: 2000-2010

For the past 10 years the Center on Domestic Violence has worked to challenge violence by building the capacity of leaders, organizations and communities to prevent and address intimate partner violence. As the only program of its kind in the country, the mission of the Center is to end domestic violence by fostering institutional and social change through leadership development, education, research and community collaboration.

Here is a sample of the Center's accomplishments since 2000:

- Established the first graduate-level academic program in the nation to address the serious social issue of domestic violence through leadership development;
- Graduated nine student cohorts, remarkable leaders that are changing the domestic violence landscape in the nation;
- Launched the first emergency response and victim assistance program for 52,000 students, faculty and staff on Denver's Auraria Campus;
- Became a major resource for 28 schools across the Front Range by launching the END Violence Program, which has trained almost 600 teachers and school staff on identifying and responding to children exposed to domestic violence;
- Won the 2008 prestigious "Celebrating Solutions" award for innovation from the Mary Byron Project;
- Empowered domestic violence policy makers and service providers with original research through the creation of the Domestic Violence Research and Action Coalition (DVRAC)
- Trained over 3,000 domestic violence practitioners, advocates, researchers, and service providers in Colorado through its Community Education Series and Research Symposia;
- Created the first graduate level Certificate in Interpersonal Violence and Health Care (CIVHC) to prepare providers to intervene on behalf of victims of domestic violence.

### Debut of Keep Her Safe – An Original Song Dedicated to the Center

The Center's Behind the Mask event featured the debut of *Keep Her Safe*, an original song by local singer and songwriter Sherrie Scott. Sherrie wrote the song specifically for the Center on Domestic Violence and dedicated it to the Center's work in ending violence against women. Donors to the Center who give \$50 or more will receive a complimentary copy of the CD. The lyrics to the song are posted on the Center's website – go to [www.domesticviolence.ucdenver.edu](http://www.domesticviolence.ucdenver.edu) and click on the masks!

## Center's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Comes Center Stage (cont.)

Sue Hagedorn, a professor emeritus at the University of Colorado College of Nursing and founder of the Seedworks Fund, also spoke at the event. Dr. Hagedorn stated that applied research conducted by the Center makes a difference. A student of the Center on Domestic Violence, Patricia Garcia, also told her story. Patricia witnessed horrifying domestic violence as a child - her mother was abused by Ms. Garcia's father. Patricia promised herself then that she would help other domestic violence abuse victims someday. Thirty years later, she entered the Center's academic program and now works to break the cycle of violence and raise awareness about its devastating consequences. Patricia ended her remarks with a simple yet powerful request of the audience: "Help me make my story make a difference!" With that challenge, Dr. Hagedorn announced that all donations from the event would be generously matched up to \$750,000 by the Seedworks Fund. The Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado, one of the evening's sponsors, also issued a \$5,000 challenge to the audience.



Masks painted by survivors, advocates, and friends hung in a gorgeous display at the Wells Fargo Theater

The Center would like to recognize our wonderful co-chairs, Bridget Orton and Terrance Carroll, our fabulous event committee, and dedicated sponsors: Wells Fargo, Kaiser Permanente, the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado and Sharon Magness Blake and Ernie Blake who made this event an amazing success. Thank you!



Event Attendees: Kyle Orton, Bridget Orton, Patricia Garcia

## Highlighting Domestic Violence Research in Colorado

A second important project of the Domestic Violence Research and Coalition in 2010 was to create vehicles to highlight the work of researchers in Colorado doing important work around the issue of domestic violence. Toward that end, DVRAC opened its monthly meetings three times over the past year, inviting the community to hear about some exceptional projects.

In May 2010, Sharon K. Araji, presented her film documentary "Domestic Violence Continued: Contested Child Custody," which gave viewers an inside look at how abusers use the legal system against their victims to regain custody of their children. The documentary featured informative interviews from victims, judges, lawyers, and advocates that are experienced in the matter of batterer tactics. Dr. Araji is the chair of the Sociology Department at the University of Colorado Denver. The audience included over 60 community activists, researchers, students and faculty.

In June 2010, Hal Wortzel, presented his research on Traumatic Brain Injury, Aggression and Domestic Violence. This provided domestic violence service providers insight on how to recognize, conceptualize, and manage post traumatic stress aggression in abusers.

In November, Merve Davis, presented his research that was conducted on 250 Colorado offenders in out-patient treatment programs in both Front Range and rural settings. His study found prevalence in attitudes toward intimate partner rape. Its findings are important for all individuals involved in the decision-making processes for both domestic violence abusers and sex offenders.

## DVRAC and the Center at the NCADV National Conference

The mission of the Domestic Violence research and Action Coalition (DVRAC) is to build bridges between the research and practice communities and to advance quality research on the topic of domestic violence. The Center on Domestic Violence is one of the founding organizations of this coalition which now hosts more than 100 members. In August of this year both DVRAC and the Center were called upon to organize and present at the 2010 National Conference of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Anaheim, California.

For the fourth time, DVRAC hosted a research track for the conference. The goal of the track was to promote action-oriented solutions to violence by bringing together producers and potential users of research. This year, the workshops in the research track addressed four prevalent themes in the domestic violence community: trafficking, children and youth, leadership, and men as allies. Five dynamic presentations were chosen from a group of proposals received from domestic violence researchers, activists, and service and advocacy groups from around the country. All the workshops offered were well-attended and well received. The interactive and informative workshops presented this year were:

~*Communities and the Ability to Reduce Domestic Violence* presented by Catherine B. Cowling;

~*Can We Tell the Full Story: Examining Human Trafficking through an Anti-Racists/Anti-Oppression Lens*, presented by Carol Gomez MSW and Quynh Dang;

~*Survivors' Voices in the Shelter Study: Implications for Change*, presented by Eleanor Lyon, Anne Menard, and Shannon Lane; *Translating Research on Child Custody Evaluations into Practice, Policies, and Professional Education to Increase the Safety of Survivors and their Children*, presented by Daniel Saunders, Chris O'Sullivan, and Jennifer L. Hardesty;

~*A Collaborative Approach to Examine the Effectiveness of Differentiated Treatment for Domestic Violence Offenders in Colorado*, presented by Nalina Narain, Ph.D., M.A.

Barbara Paradiso, Director of the Center on Domestic Violence both moderated and participated on a panel for the opening plenary of the conference. The plenary session was titled, *Inspire, Organize, Manage, Motivate - Defining Leadership in a Movement for Change*. Barbara was joined by three other accomplished leaders in the domestic violence movement, Annie Fukushima, Ruth Slaughter and Susan McGee to explore how leadership is defined in a movement designed to oppose imbalances of power; whether the nature of domestic violence work presents unique challenges to organizational leaders and managers; and, if so, are those challenges being met successfully. Audience members were asked to contribute their definitions of strong leadership, setting the stage for a powerful 2010 conference - The Changing Faces - and Challenges - of the Movement.

## END Violence Program Updates

Last spring, the Center on Domestic Violence launched the END Violence program in 28 public schools along Colorado's Front Range. END Violence is designed to enhance the capacity of schools to successfully identify and respond to the needs of the children who witness violence in their home. During the first semester of the project, the Domestic Violence Specialists employed by the project have trained over 550 teachers and staff totaling more than 60 hours of training time combined.



The Specialists also act as a resource liaison for the schools in order to connect victims to needed community based services. Already, the Specialists report growing capacity among schools to respond effectively to cases of domestic violence and an overall attitude change towards victims among school personnel. Support for the project has also been strong. "I think domestic violence something very important for school staff to be aware of and realize how much it affects students...I am so glad to have the END Violence specialist in our school." - School Staff Member from Lincoln High School in Denver.

An important aspect of the Specialists' work is to provide help on specific cases involving domestic violence. The project has experienced many success stories, one of which began with a Specialist being called to an elementary school to respond to a report that the mother of a child at the school was being battered. Working alongside the school, the Specialist contacted the victim and explained her options, including accessing services from the local safe house. Empowered with good information provided by the school and the Specialist, the victim reported her abusive husband to the police, who arrested him while she was still giving her report in the school office. The Specialist also assisted the victim in obtaining a no contact order against her abuser. The school made their mandatory report to social services, and by that time, the mother and children were already safe. This new intervention by the school and the Specialist helped the victim take the necessary steps to protect herself and her children. As a result the children were able to stay safely with their mom and are performing better at school.



THE PHOENIX CENTER  
AT AURARIA

Call our free and confidential helpline 24/7 303-556-CALL

### New from the Phoenix Center!

The Phoenix Center at Auraria has a new office! In August the office moved into a newly renovated space in the Tivoli Student Center located in suite 227, which is located in the North end of the building. Come by and see the new location! All contact information for the PCA remains the same.

The PCA is also excited to announce that they have received funds from the Community College of Denver (CCD) Student Government to awarded PCA \$3000.00 to enhance outreach initiatives for CCD students during the 2010-11 academic year. The initiatives include installing a permanent PCA bulletin board in South Classroom, a commitment to table in South Classroom once a month, and additional funds for increased publicity for PCA events in South Classroom. The PCA staff is very grateful for this additional financial support and would like to thank CCD student government for their commitment to its mission.

Finally, the PCA and its campus partners are working to provide information about domestic violence in 172 bathroom stalls across campus. This allows victims to access life-saving information in a private setting away from their abuser, in most cases. The PCA looks forward to installing information placards across campus by Spring 2011.

## The Center on Domestic Violence Partners with the Women of Color Network

The Center on Domestic Violence has been invited to partner on a national leadership training program funded by the Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families. The center will work with the Women of Color Network (WOCN) to support a collaboration of technical assistance providers in domestic violence communities across the nation. Together, the Center and the Women of Color Network will develop a leadership academy that will promote culturally appropriate service design and delivery by supporting leadership development for members of underrepresented groups. Many States and State Domestic Violence Coalitions are eager to take additional concrete steps to increase leadership opportunities for members of underrepresented groups and the Center is honored to be partnering with the WOCN to guide their steps.

## Center Director Celebrates with Vice President Biden!

In September 2010 Barbara Paradiso, Director of the Center on Domestic Violence, was honored to attend a celebration of the 16th anniversary of the federal Violence Against Women Act at Vice President Biden's home in D.C.



Barbara Paradiso, with Vice President Joe Biden with Rita Smith, Executive Director of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Washington D.C.