



Southeastern Massachusetts Voices Against Violence

December 21, 2006 Minutes

Discussion Highlights:

2007 National Crime Victims Rights Week is April 22-28. There will also be a focus on sexual assault awareness in Attleboro and Taunton. No dates for the Clothesline Project are confirmed as yet. New Hope will be cooperatively supported with materials and displays in their library presentations.

Workshops - The OBC grant is out, and could provide funds for workshops before April. Ideas of venues include Taunton and Norton Libraries, First Parish Church. This can be enlightening and awareness raising among the general public, letting them know about New Hope.

Take Back the Night will be observed at Stonehill College and other area colleges.



Dress to Impress continues to grow. Commercial clothes racks were received from Formans. Although there has been lots of clothing donated, they will go fast. Intake of items such as sizes 0-4X, men's clothing of all sizes, boxes of shoes needing polishing, pocketbooks and belts continues. A potluck brunch will be held on 12/30/06, 10:30-1:00, for anyone interested in volunteering their time for being on call a few hours a month, or helping someone to pick out clothing. A steady supply of volunteers will be needed in January to help sort and size clothing. Also needed are a local cleaner and a laundry brigade to freshen up the clothing. The Bristol County Savings Bank Charitable Foundation funding will cover 7 months rent and \$400 for miscellaneous purchases and repairs.

Verizon Wireless Hopeline Cell Phones Project continues to collect donations.

Through My Eyes: Voices Against Violence deadline for submissions is **2/28/07**. All ages may submit personal stories, poetry and artwork.

United Way Needs Assessment – Committee members attended focus group meetings.

National Teen Dating Violence Awareness – The 2006 tool kit has signs, how teachers can include the subject in the curriculum, and is different from the National Crime Victims Rights Week manual. A DVD is also available. Annemarie will approach the press to convince the area's major publications to do a series on teen violence at the end of January, or February 5-9. Annemarie will make an informational handout for distribution.

Announcements:

- New Hope is going an ongoing bullying program at Norton Middle School, using a curriculum they've developed.
- Nicole is researching Sexual Awareness Month

Next Steps:

- ☐ Continue discussions of workshops: where, size, age groups, use of audio visual. (Committee)
- ☐ Contact Kim Decosta at Bridgewater State College. (Annemarie)
- ☐ Send Lorraine the application for Through My Eyes. (Annemarie)
- ☐ Make an informational handout for Teen Dating Violence signs and symptoms and contact area press. (Annemarie)

Next Meeting: **1/18/07**, 5:00pm, First Parish Church, Taunton

Contact Person: Annemarie Matulis, **508-824-3227**; matulisannie@msn.com