



# DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

## OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL SOCIETY

### DO YOU HAVE A TRUCK AND SOME FREE TIME?

Let us know! We could always use a hand helping clients move furniture and other possessions into the transition houses!

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we patiently (or not so patiently) wait for spring to arrive in Vancouver, I want to wish everyone a joyful Easter season. Our world is so in need of a Saviour and as we celebrate Easter we should be overjoyed with what God has done for us.

Domestic Abuse Services, Our Lady of Good Counsel Society has truly been blessed from God. We have been given the privilege of helping out women and children in need, by providing them with a safe home, comfort and care.

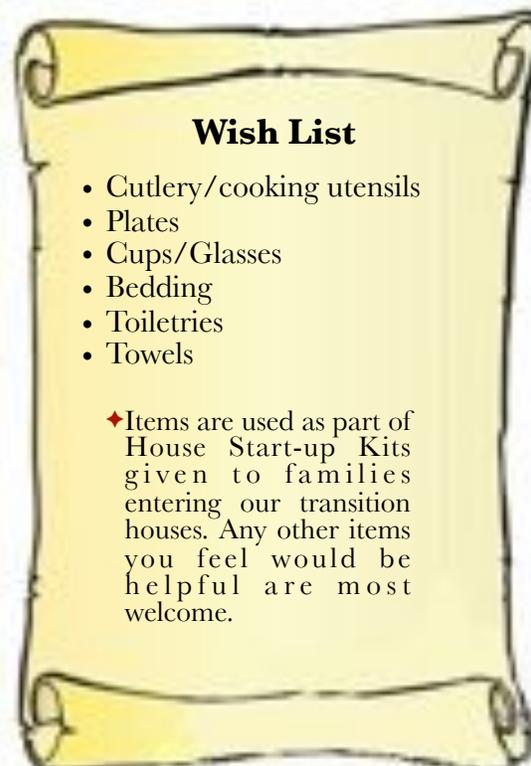
In January of this year, the Board made the decision to hire Anne D'Cruz into the full time position of Operations

Coordinator. As you may know, Anne has been working with us on a part time basis since last June. She has more than exceeded our expectations and has worked diligently to fill a need with regard to our operations. Anne's first job is to our clients. She does the intake interviews and greets our clients as they come to stay with us. She works tirelessly to help in anyway she can. Another of Anne's jobs is to liaison with the community. She has visited several safe houses and non-profit societies to learn about what they do and to give them an overview of what we do. This has helped tremendously in getting our name out and establishing relationships with other transition houses and community organizations.

Additionally, the board decided that it would be advantageous to turn the smallest suite in the house into an office. This gives Anne more control over what is happening and the clients feel safer with someone close by. We are very grateful to Anne for her hard work and generous nature.

As the phone volunteers have noted, Anne has taken over the helpline scheduling and the checking of the reports from Tigertel, matching them to the helpline reports. This is time consuming but important work as it

*(continued on page 2)*



*(President's Report continued)*

gives us much need statistical information to be able to make informed decisions.

On a sad note, we said goodbye to our office assistant of three year in March. Suzanne Milbers has decided to move on and try new things. We will miss her tremendously, but thank her for all her hard work, especially in setting up our new database.

On a separate note, we have scheduled a visioning day for our Board at the end of April to discuss goals and plans for the Society. We will be reviewing our staffing and deciding how we will proceed. With Anne working full time we need to determine and discern how much and what kind of office support we need.

Our Board is busy working on various projects including a review and redesign of our pamphlets and poster and a special fall fundraising event. Stay tuned for more details.

We are always in need of committed and experienced members to help with various committees and on our Board. If you feel called to be more involved in Domestic Abuse Services please contact me or another board member.

We thank you, our members, for your kind support and encouragement as we look for ways to help women and children who are living in fear to change the direction of their lives.

**Michele Smillie**  
**President**

### **ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS!**

You all should have received a Notice of Meeting, in the mail, to be held on May 24<sup>th</sup> at St. Stephen's Church, North Vancouver. PLEASE put it on your calendar! This is an important meeting. If any past volunteers, who have taken the training course and have taken "time off" from the helpline, can join us, you are most welcome to come and catch up on what is happening. Just call

**Mavis Toovey @ 604 985 8680**

## **FASHION SHOW & FUNDRAISING EVENT**

Planning is now underway for our next fundraising event to be held at Holy Cross High School Gym Sunday November 20, 2011! This will include a silent auction, a fashion show with great options to take you into the holiday season and some fun food to add to the magic of the afternoon!

There are many ways that our members can be involved!

If you would like to be part of the planning of this event, are willing to be one

of our models, can be of help at the event itself, or have some interesting items for the silent auction, please contact me,

**Maureen Fadum**

**(mgfadum@shaw.ca)** and we can explore the possibilities!

Do circle the date on your calendar and plan to attend. This event is a great opportunity to gather some friends together and spend a fun afternoon together while supporting such an important cause.

Ticket information and further details will be available in the next newsletter so stay posted!



If you or someone you know needs help, call us confidentially at:

**DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE**

(604) 640 7549

or

1 888 833 7733

(out of town)

## EDUCATING OUR YOUTH

Raising awareness through education is the second of DAS's twofold mission and we hope we are seeing the beginning of a revival in this area through our program for our Catholic youth. After listening to a brief DAS presentation at a Religious Department Heads' (of High Schools in the Vancouver Archdiocese) meeting on the interactive, three-hour workshop for Grade 10 students which takes place annually at St. Patrick's High School, Little Flower Academy's Counsellor, Anne Marie Carlson decided that the students at her school needed to know about the warning signs and horrifying effects of abuse. This led to the taking of some Peer Mediators to observe St. Patrick's workshop in February which, in turn, resulted in a 3½ hour training program for the young ladies at Little Flower Academy. The following articles reflect their learning.



### Reflections from Peer Mediators

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the LFA Peer Mediators attended a domestic violence workshop at St. Patrick's High School led by the St. Patrick's Peer Counsellors. Through the workshop, the LFA Peer Mediators were equipped with the necessary tools to run their own domestic abuse workshop at LFA. On March 30<sup>th</sup>, the LFA Peer Mediators Club organized and led a domestic abuse workshop for the grade 10 students. Under the guidance and leadership of Ann Marie Carlson, the club teacher sponsor, the Peer Mediators organized a workshop to address important issues regarding domestic violence, including how to recognize it and what actions to take. Through guest speakers, student-led role-plays, and small group discussions, the grade 10's became more aware of the issues surrounding domestic abuse. Since domestic violence is not a common topic that is discussed in the LFA school community, the workshop shed some light on a very important topic. The grade 10's enthusiasm and interest were key to the success of the workshop. By the end of the session, a few grade 10's were asked to share what they learned from the workshop. Through each student's unique insights, it was evident that the students were more knowledgeable about the signs and concerns surrounding domestic abuse. After getting such a positive response from the grade 10's, the LFA Peer Mediators hope to continue this workshop for the years to come.

Allena, Gabriella, and Meliza

Reflections from Grade 10 Students

The domestic abuse workshop that was held at Little Flower Academy a few weeks ago was informative and raised great awareness about domestic abuse in our everyday lives. The facts given by the presenters were straight forward and well explained. During the workshop the students were given the chance to voice their opinions on the different types of abuse and discuss tactics to avoid anything happening in the future. The most effective part of the presentation was the skits given by the LFA peer mediators. Students were able to view and comprehend instances that could happen in our personal lives. This workshop was very beneficial to students of grade ten and should be presented to the student bodies of other schools.

Alice, Valarie, Alexandria, and Mary Jo

*(Educating Our Youth continued)*

In addition to High School workshops (which have been coordinated by Suzanne Latta), an important group of young men participated in a two-hour DAS workshop in March. Seventeen seminarians of Christ the King Seminary at Westminster Abbey learned about abuse; the warning signs, the cycle of abuse, statistics, the intergenerational effects and what they, as future priests, can do to help eliminate abuse in the Catholic community. The Abbot, Rt. Rev. John Braganza provided the seminarians with his own experiences on dealing with victims of abuse and thus greatly enhanced everyone's learning that wet, Monday afternoon.

**Helen Low**

**Education Committee Chair**



There will be a **Regional Resource Worker and Speakers' Bureau Training** on **Thursday, May 12th 2011**. It will be held in the meeting room at **St. Patricks Parish**. The Regional Resource Worker Training will be held from 6-7:30 and the Speaker's Bureau Training will be held from 7:30-9. Everyone interested in volunteering in these areas should attend the entire meeting from **6:00 - 9:00pm**. Thank you for your support.

*Enclosed is my donation to Domestic Abuse Services*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

I would also like to renew my membership  
(please complete attached membership form)

Tax Receipts will be issued for donations. Please mail to:

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES - Our Lady of Good Counsel Society