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Welcome to the First Quarter Newsletter!

March 13th, 2012



ANTI-VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP of Philadelphia

Together we can end the cycle of violence.

This Quarter's News...

Welcome to the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia's quarterly newsletter! Here you will find updates on the latest events, news and information on AVP, its partners and the world of violence prevention and victim aid. Here's what this quarter's newsletter includes...

- AVP Participates in Rittenhouse Square Flower Market
- Intern Yvonne Lee shares her story
- Local synagogue members give after-school snacks to AVP clients
- And much more!

Read on to get the inside scoop.

AVP To Take Part in Rittenhouse Square Flower Market for Children's Charities

About Us



The Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia is a unique organization helping children and youth resolve conflict nonviolently, while assisting victims and their families to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of violence. Our mission is to end the cycle of violence in Philadelphia through comprehensive and collaborative programs.

[Visit our website](#)

Or call us at 215-567-6776
for more information



2012 marks the 97th year of the Rittenhouse Square Flower Market, a French flower market that benefits four select children's charities each year. This year, the Anti-Violence Partnership was chosen as one of those four beneficiaries. In honor of mothers and their children, the market will take place a few days before Mother's Day on May 10th and 11th. AVP's inclusion in this popular and prestigious fundraising event is just one more sign of the ongoing successful work being done in the counseling center, SAVE anti-violence education program, and victim services network.

The market, which is to-date Rittenhouse Square's longest-running event, hosts a series of organizational booths. Each booth will represent a different children's charity, all of which will sell their own greenery, showcasing a variety of flowers, plants, gardening products, and gifts. Along with selling plants, AVP will be setting up a "craft corner" for children to make peace-sign jewelry. The market will be a great opportunity for AVP to increase public knowledge on violence and victim trauma, victims services and AVP's many programs while becoming more familiar with other Philadelphia charities. All donations made through the market will be used to support AVP's many children-centered services such as SAVE's school education program and child counseling services.

Volunteers are still needed in as little as two-hour blocks to help set-up and run the market booth, so if you are looking for an easy and fun way to get involved, the Rittenhouse Flower Market is the perfect opportunity! Simply contact Rachel Kraushaar at rkraushaar@avpphila.org

Volunteer Stories: Yvonne Lee

Yvonne Lee, an intern at AVP's counseling center, talks about her past and how it brought her to the Anti-Violence Partnership.

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Holiday Toy Drive Recap

Over the winter holidays, AVP hosted a very successful toy drive that provided around twelve large families with toy, food and monetary gifts.

Many of the gifts were given by individual donors, but the American Association of Cancer Research provided six large boxes of toys for donation. The Friends Center provided two such boxes of toys donated by its members.



I came to AVP in the fall of 2011 with little experience in the mental health field: a semester of substance abuse counseling during my practicum at Greater Philadelphia Asian Social Services and four semesters of graduate work with the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Prior to entering the wonderful world of counseling, I was a career journalist, with more than 13 years of experience domestically and overseas. Recently, I spent five years in Asia, including Cambodia, Guam and South Korea, where I interviewed numerous survivors of genocide, rape and abuse. As I learned more about their traumas, I began to look for ways to help beyond writing their stories. I wanted to become part of the healing process, to work with survivors in a way that would allow moments of peace until they reached a place where they had truly healed.

While I value the ability of journalists to give voice to the disenfranchised, I decided that I wanted to work hand-in-hand with survivors, rather than lending my ear for just a few hours at a time. So in 2010, I moved back to the U.S. and began a graduate program in mental health counseling.

I knew that I wanted to work with a diverse population from a variety of cultures, ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds, educational levels and sexual orientations. I also wanted to learn more about treating trauma, particularly complex Type II trauma. After researching dozens of agencies, I found AVP. Starting with the first email I received from Rebecca, an AVP therapist, I knew I had come to the right place. Every person I interacted with was caring and passionate about the work they do. They support each other on a level I have not seen at other organizations. This allows for open dialogue about the challenges each person faces, and provides tremendous opportunity for growth and learning.

After six months here, I have come to appreciate the lack of cynicism and resignation that persist in so many overburdened social service agencies. Hope is allowed to breathe here—it lives in every person, every room, every client who walks through the door. The clients know their time will not be cut short, they do not have to make a choice

The drive was an overwhelming success that made the holiday season much brighter for AVP clients and their families.

Please visit [our website](#) for ways that you too can help our families in need.

between paying for the services they so desperately need and putting food on the table. This is an agency that is committed to doing the often arduous and long-term work of healing families. I am very grateful to be here.

-Yvonne Lee, Counseling Center Intern

Therapist Gabrielle Lipkin's Little Help Goes a Long Way



In early November I posted an email to my synagogue list serve, noting that in the counseling center, where I've provided essential therapeutic services for over 13 years, we treat many families that bring their children for help after school. Often, I wrote, they don't have the time or money to get a snack.

The members of Beth Am Israel, www.BethAmIsrael.org, as always, responded with an open heart! Members donated left over Halloween candy and some went out to buy healthier snacks for AVP's young clients. One family was so saddened by the thoughts of kids going without an afterschool snack, that they took on the responsibility to provide snacks for all the kids that participate in our support groups. One wonderful mother-daughter team whipped up cookies or brownies, added some other goodies and packed them into individual baggies. In addition, they also bought healthy snacks for AVP clients. In the Jewish tradition we call these kinds of deeds, G'milut Hasadim, or Acts of Loving Kindness.

Having someone show care, love, and concern can be healing after a physical or psychological trauma. I see our AVP families expressing such appreciation for this act of loving kindness. I see them so touched by the fact that strangers are concerned about them and want to provide them with sustenance. Getting fresh homemade delicious snacks by strangers can go a long way on a victim's road to recovery.

-Gabrielle Lipkin, AVP Counselor

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