



[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

Welcome to the December Newsletter!

December 5th, 2011



ANTI-VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP of Philadelphia

Together we can end the cycle of violence.

This Month's News...

Welcome to the December issue of the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia's 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. This newsletter marks the last of our monthly issues. For the 2012 year, this newsletter will be a quarterly review of AVP happenings. To wrap up this very successful year, here's what this month's newsletter includes...

- SAVE program targets North Philadelphia elementary
- AVP counselors welcome continuing education
- Seasons Greetings
- And much more!

Read on to get the inside scoop.

Seasons Greetings from AVP



At this time of year, it seems appropriate to reflect on our

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

Our Board

Anthony Johnson

Chair

William McEwan

Treasurer

Nicholas A. Caruso

Razelle Frankl, PhD.

good fortune and dedicate ourselves to lending a hand to those who have not been so blessed. AVP staff, along with others in the greater Philadelphia community, have been incredibly generous to our clients in the past several months.

One shining example of this is Congregation Beth Am Israel in Penn Valley. In September, Beth Am Israel members graciously donated essential school supplies to our young clients who have been impacted by violence. 37 students who receive services through the counseling center were provided fully-stocked backpacks to start the school year.

During the summer and fall, Beth Am happily donated their wonderful "left over" organic, local produce from Lancaster Farm Fresh CSA - a collective of organic farmers. Gabrielle Lipkin, a Beth Am member and AVP therapist, transported this delicious and nutritious produce to our office for our clients, many of whom don't have access to quality food. Gabrielle often comes to work Mondays with armfuls of food from Beth Am's Sabbath celebration to share with our AVP families.

Our Counseling Center clinical staff members have gone a step further and have identified several families to be "adopted" for the holiday season. They are seeking contributions from their own family and friends to make sure needy children have a joyful holiday. It is truly inspiring to see the dedication and support of AVP staff members, along with their extended communities, who are committed to giving back to those less fortunate.

If you would like to provide additional help to AVP and our clients, please see our Holiday Wish List posted on our website: <http://www.avpphila.org/HolidayWishList.html>. Wishing you a most peaceful holiday and new year,

Julie Rausch, Executive Director

Peter Hickok
James Madden
Violet Melton
Sarah Snyder
Katherine Wade, Esq.

Deborah Spungen, MSS,
MLSP
Founding Director

Executive Director-
Julie Rausch, MSS, MLSP

Newsletter Author-
Meg Augustin, M.Ed.

SAVE Brings Violence Prevention to Northeastern Philadelphia

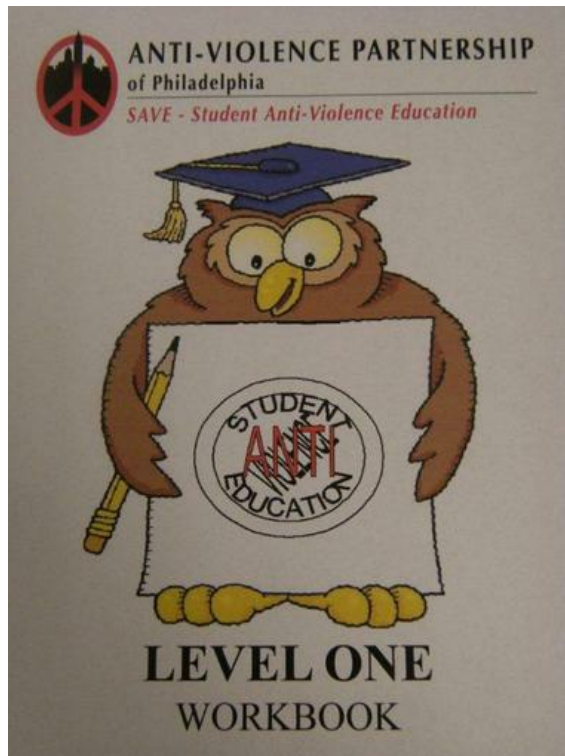


Potter-Thomas student working on a SAVE Anti-Violence Workbook

Since early October, SAVE program director David Olmo has been bringing the Student Anti-Violence Education (SAVE) program to Potter-Thomas Elementary School - a K-8 in North Philadelphia. The school was specially chosen for the first half of this year as part of the program run by Olmo, along with three other schools. Potter-Thomas is a school made up of a high Latino population (77%) with 95% of students being labeled as "economically disadvantaged" by the school system. The school alone has reported over ten assaults and weapons incidents within the last school year. Additionally, the surrounding community has experienced a high rate of violence that has infiltrated the students' lives, including a recent double-homicide that directly affected students at Potter-Thomas and nearby Edison High School.

AVP has been targeting schools in Northeastern Philadelphia for several years. The decision to provide services at Potter-Thomas was prompted by a highly violent incident in the community. SAVE's work at the school has been facilitated by Potter-Thomas's school counselor, Horace Ryans, Jr., a former SAVE counselor of over eight years. Until February of next year, Olmo will visit the school weekly, implementing SAVE's 16-week classroom-based curriculum dealing with issues

such as peer pressure, win-win conflict resolution, and anger management while opening up dialogue for kids to discuss the violence they experience. In addition, AVP therapists Molly Schamel and Mary Beth Hays will visit each week for group and one-on-one counseling services to children who need more clinical assistance in dealing with the violence in their lives.



Cover of the SAVE Workbook

This year marks the 20th Anniversary for SAVE, which has provided violence prevention training and counseling to over 15,000 elementary, middle and high school students in urban schools throughout Philadelphia and has received much acclaim for its work. One past student writes, "**What I learned... is don't let your anger get the best of you...I also learned that a fight is not always the best solution because two wrongs don't make a right.**" Students participating in the program have showed a significant increase in understanding the nature of conflict as well as enhancements in the skills students need to identify and select non-violent options in resolving their conflicts. This year's funders for the program include the Connelly Foundation, Green Tree Health Care Foundation, the Garthwaite Foundation, the

Gilbert Family Foundation, and individual donors to AVP.

Continuing Education for AVP Therapists



(image courtesy of www.elianagil.com)

Last month, two trainings offered unique insight and skills to AVP therapists. Dr. Eliana Gil, a trauma specialist, hosted a conference entitled *The Impact of Complex Interpersonal Trauma: Assessment and Treatment Considerations* which discussed trauma and its impact on childhood developmental issues and gave therapists several play-based strategies for assessment.

"While listening to Dr. Gil, a therapist who is a renown practitioner in trauma with an unique style, I realized that the therapists at AVP share many of her theoretical beliefs, therapeutic modalities, and the deep understanding of traumatized children and families." says therapist Rebecca Selvin. **"It felt validating about the quality of treatment that our clients receive."** The training provided new techniques and recommendations for therapeutic texts, online resources and books for clients. The training also provided innovative examples of play-based strategies, several of which included art therapy.

The second workshop, presented by Dr. Bonnie Badenoch, was a neuroscience lecture entitled *Brain-wise Pathways in Play Therapy: Working with Traumatized Children and Teens*. The lecture focused on what happens in the brain during normal development as opposed to hindered development, especially pertaining to traumatic events. **"I feel I have a**

deeper awareness of the science behind healing a traumatized child," says Selvin. "This amazing seminar was full of useful information that has inspired me."

Tel: (215) 567-6776
Fax: (215) 567-6775
Email: avp@avpphila.org

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

The Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia
2000 Hamilton St
Suite 304
Philadelphia, PA 19130
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

