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Welcome to the November Newsletter!

November 7th, 2011



ANTI-VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP of Philadelphia

Together we can end the cycle of violence.

This Month's News...

Welcome to the November 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. Here's what this month's newsletter includes...

- AVP receives grant to start on new family therapy room
- Teen support group member writes a healing poem
- We welcome Peter Hickok to the board
- AVP hosts school supplies drive
- And much more!

Read on to get the inside scoop.

AVP Receives Grant for New Family Therapy Room

About Us

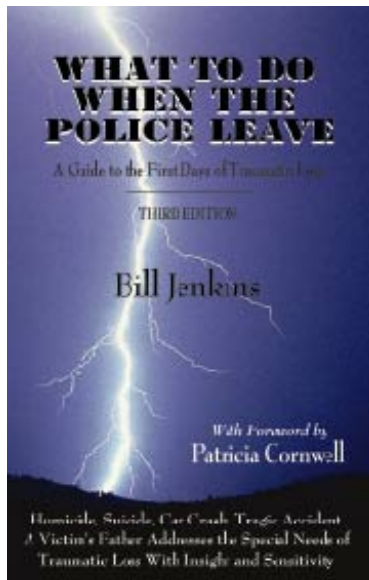


The Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia is a unique organization helping children and youth resolve conflict nonviolently, while assisting victims and their families to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of violence. Our mission is to end the cycle of violence in Philadelphia through comprehensive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

[Visit our website](#)

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

Our Board



The Anti-Violence Partnership's Counseling Center offers a wide variety of counseling services to address the full cycle of violence. One-on-ones, teen group support, and counseling for young ones and their caregivers are all methods employed to serve families and communities traumatized by violence. As violence happens to an array of people, sometimes effecting entire families and communities, it has become important for AVP to offer space for counseling larger groups. The current furnishings and design of the Counseling Center are not conducive to building the intimate and honest bonds needed for constructive counseling. The Center has insufficient room to accommodate families and groups of over four clients. The furniture is uncomfortable, clinical, and in some cases, in disrepair.

AVP plans to create a new space that feels more comfortable and inviting, more like a traditional private space and less like a clinical center. "We want to establish an atmosphere where our clients feel comfortable 'dropping their guard', to be honest and real, and allow the natural dynamics of family to emerge," says executive director Julie Rausch. "We don't want them to feel like they have to behave like they are in a business meeting."

The new room will allow for community, school and family debriefings, regular family sessions, traumatic grief groups, and more comfortable individual therapy sessions. The new room will also include include a resource center for bibliotherapy. A variety of books will be available, including What To Do When the Police Leave: A Guide to the First Days of Traumatic Loss- a work of

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Founding Director

Executive Director-

Julie Rausch, MSS, MLSP

Newsletter Author-

Meg Augustin, M.Ed.

Meet our New Board Member!

AVP welcomes Peter Hickok to the Board of Directors. Hickok received his MA in Clinical Counseling from Western Evangelical Seminary, now part of George Fox University. He currently works as the Clinical Coordinator at Wordsworth Human Services. Hickok says of his interest in AVP, "Over the last 13 years I have been struck with how much

advice for victims suffering recent loss.

AVP received funding for the project through a grant from McLean Contributionship based in Bryn Mawr. Upon receiving the grant, AVP laid plans for the new space. Therapist Molly Schamel volunteered her sister to draft up a concept. Marian Schamel-Saks has had varied experience as an engineer, modeling spaces such as the Morris Arboretum Horticultural Center and the Philadelphia Children's Zoo. With funding and readied sketches, remodeling of the space will begin shortly. Stay tuned with our monthly newsletter for future progress.

AVP Teen Writes Therapeutic Poetry



Teen support group member Haniyaah has lost several people to homicide in her lifetime. A member of AVP's Teen Support Group, she approached therapist and group leader Molly Schamel with the following poem about her experience.

January to August 1993, you were there.
November 1993, you were there.
December, you were there with smiles and grins.
Yea, you were there way back then.
-
January of '94, you were still there.
April, you were there.
-
Then May came early
You were late
Every month you came later and later
August 1994 came
I came

violence the children and their families that I work with have been exposed to or have experienced... From my perspective, AVP's mission and my passion are a natural fit. I'm excited about being a valuable contributing member of the board and to the mission of AVP."

AVP Founder to Talk at DA Training

AVP founder Deborah Spungen spoke this week at the Assistant District Attorney's Continuing Legal Education seminar. Assistant District Attorney Robin Godfrey organized the training around issues pertaining to co-victims in the legal system. When families lose a loved one to violence they must deal with the aftermath- an emotionally taxing and lengthy legal process.

Spungen addressed the issues of death notification, pending trials and the long post-trial phase to 150 ADAs. Godfrey showed the short documentary "The Other Side of Death Row" - a film which gives voice to co-victims going through the cumbersome and prolonged court systems.

"Post-trial appeals, especially as it relates to the death penalty, prolongs the journey of the co-victims as they try to reconstruct their lives," notes Spungen. "Families of Murder Victims staff offer co-victims many services but they are, most of all, committed to walking with them in their pain."

And where were you?

You weren't there.

-

The years passed and you finally came back

December 2001, you were there.

January, February, March, April 2002 you were there.

-

May 1st you were on the other side of the receiver

Making promises and commitments

But you couldn't keep either.

-

May 2nd you were gone for good.

There was no coming back for you!

May 11th, 2002 I said my final goodbye to you.

-

You took off again

But this time to another dimension

Where nothing of this world was ever mentioned.

-

The next August came and went

You still weren't there.

But this time it wasn't by choice.

But I began to think

If you had a choice

Would you be there?

-

And as the years came

My answers began to come

No

You would not be there.

You would not be here.

-

And I know why

It is because your brain spoke to you.

He spoke wise words to you.

He said: 'You Michael, you already planted your silly ole' seed. So
why water it?'

Oh, how sensible those words were to you!

-

So that silly ole' seed didn't mean a thing to you

You were ignorant to that fact

That you, Michael, stunted the growth of that seed.

-

You see it wasn't fully fertilized

And the seed wasn't complete

And you don't even know who that seed is!

-

Well

Michael, Daddy,

That seed is me!

Backpack Drive for Children Affected by Violence



Last month, members of the Beth Am Isreal synagogue in Penn Valley donated school supplies to children affected by violence. New backpacks were filled with the required school supplies and given to the many children who receive counseling services at AVP. Therapist Gabrielle Lipkin aided in the collection and distribution of the backpacks and supplies and kept in contact with the families. 37 backpacks were donated in total and enough school supplies were collected to furnish both the backpacks as well as provide additional supplies to needy children.

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