

Network For Women's Lives Education Report July 06-June 07

Acton:

The Network sponsored an evening performance on June 4 of **The Yellow Dress**, a teen dating violence drama. It was attended by a small but very attentive student group, some of them peer leaders who were there to lead the follow up discussion. Meredith Trueblood, director of Rape Crisis Center in Lowell, was also there with information/brochures and support if needed.

MVP Program, (Mentors in Violence Prevention) Lindsay Rosenman has been funded to train a new group of students this past spring to make presentations in the health classes in Junior High and the **Project Wellness Day** in March.

Our liaison has been working with Carolyn Imperato, Health Coordinator for ABH, to develop anti bullying and healthy relationship programs for the next school year.

Network representatives have been instrumental in forming the **AB Coalition for Healthy Youth**, and been members of the steering committee. We helped secure a \$3000 grant from Acton's **Danny's Place** to print Joan Rubin-Deutsch's "**Love Should Not Hurt**" booklets to distribute in the schools.

Bedford:

The high school hosted a Network funded in-school April 5 presentation of **The Yellow Dress** for 300 students with follow up discussion led by the actress.

We funded the production of **The Golden Rule Quilt** in the Lane elementary school. Our liaison continues discussion with the Middle School to have a non-violence program next fall for girls, "**Girl Power**".

We received a \$250 grant from the Social Action committee of First Parish church in recognition of our work in the Bedford schools.

Carlisle:

The elementary schools continue with **The Second Step** program, which the Network initiated and purchased the curriculum material. The program emphasizes empathy training, impulse control, problem solving, and anger/frustration management for children.

Concord and Concord Carlisle High School:

We continue to work closely with Kathy Bowen, Health Coordinator, and have presented many programs to her, some of which are still under consideration for fall '08. We arranged for and funded the 6th grade presentation **Doing the Right Thing** in November, and the 8th grade presentation of **The Improbable Players** in March. Students completed evaluation surveys on both plays.

Anne Rarich championed our participation and partial funding for **Challenge Day** in May for over 100 students and 30 adult volunteers who attended one of the two days. Challenge Day's three steps and process are **Inclusion, Influence, and Affection**, with the constant reminder that if you want

to create your desired change, you must Notice, Choose, Act. The Network is pursuing the annual continuation of this program.

In the fall we partially funded the **STEP Program** for students "at risk" who could not complete a traditional program of studies and would not have graduated.

Health Week: For the fourth year running we participated, this year joining with The Concord Round Table and DVVAP to offer a very popular contest. The kids had to answer multiple choice questions on Domestic Violence warning signs with prizes awarded for correct answers. The prizes were pens inscribed with the booklet title "Love is Not Supposed to Hurt." The Network again paid for the printing of the booklets which were distributed at Health Week and in the health classes.

Maynard:

After several years of continuing to meet with guidance staff we finally succeeded in getting a program in the schools. **The Yellow Dress** was performed in an all-school performance in December. And after meeting with the superintendent and high school principal we were able to secure the High School auditorium for the fourth annual performance of **The Vagina Monologue**. The Network's goal is to perform this production in different towns each year and involve local community leaders in the event.

We have secured a commitment and then funded one of their guidance staff, Korey Barkley, to take the **MVP** training at Northeastern this August and then train the students.

Stow:

The schools have requested and we have funded **The Responsive Classroom** in the Pompositicut and Center elementary schools. The curriculum is committed to helping create a learning environment where children thrive socially and emotionally by learning cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control.

The Hale Middle School requested and we funded anti-bullying and conflict resolution video material from **The Search Institute**.

None of this important work would have happened without the individual Network liaison volunteers in each town. With great respect and thanks: In Concord- MJ Nichols and Anne Rarich; in Bedford- Nancy Asbedian and Carla Baer; in Carlisle- Mugsie Rocco; in Acton- Liza Cormie, Shirley Ormsby, and Joan Rubin-Deutsch; in Stow- Sue Allaire; in Maynard next school year Cary Ruffin.

I would welcome additional school liaison volunteers in these towns. Please call or email me: dkjannurs@aol.com or 978-3669-2863

Respectfully submitted, Pam Johnson, School Education Chair