

# DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES OF CARBON COUNTY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Carbon County (DSVS)  
PO Box 314, 506 North Broadway, Red Lodge, MT 59068  
406-446-2296 (phone) ~ 406-425-2222 (helpline)  
[info@dsvsmontana.org](mailto:info@dsvsmontana.org) ~ [www.dsvsmontana.org](http://www.dsvsmontana.org)

**In Memory of Amber K. Creemens**

**In Memory of Judy Wang**



## Letter from the Board President and Executive Director

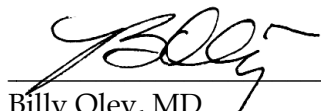
This past year has been extraordinarily busy for Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Carbon County (DSVS). In 2009, we served a record-breaking 186 people - 130 women, 24 children, 13 teens and 19 men - by providing shelter, food, clothing, crisis support, safety planning, legal advocacy and ongoing services such as support groups. We also provided 8,284 units of training and educational programming to individuals throughout the county and state including students, teachers and administrators, medical personnel, clergy, members of the criminal justice and law enforcement communities, civic groups and concerned community members.

With funding awarded by the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women and private foundations, DSVS has dramatically expanded its violence prevention education programming throughout Carbon County as well as to schools in neighboring Yellowstone and Stillwater Counties. This programming, which we know is critical to stopping the cycle of violence, has been well received and we are finding it challenging to keep up with all the requests we receive from area schools! In late 2009, DSVS was awarded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, also through the United States Department of Justice. This funding will allow DSVS to help its clients in Carbon County, as well as survivors of violence in Stillwater and Sweet Grass Counties, in a more comprehensive and holistic way by addressing longer term housing and economic needs.

Funding from the United States Department of Justice has also provided Carbon County systems professionals the opportunity to attend national-level trainings focused on the law enforcement and criminal justice response to domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence and stalking. It is our hope that as a community we will continue to build a more coordinated and comprehensive response to these crimes by protecting those victimized, by holding perpetrators responsible for their actions and by reducing our community's tolerance of these crimes.

As we start a new year and a new decade, we welcome several new staff members, board members and volunteers, all of whom bring great dedication to this work. We are also excited to continue expanding our services. DSVS will hold its first Sexual Assault Advocate training in March and will expand financial literacy workshops throughout the county.

As always, we are grateful for your support and encouragement of this work. Your generosity and commitment of time, energy and funds sustain us. We look forward to seeing and working with you in 2010!

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Billy Oley, MD  
Board President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Allison Smith-Estelle, PhD  
Executive Director

# DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES OF CARBON COUNTY

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### MISSION STATEMENT

Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Carbon County's (DSVS) mission is to eliminate domestic, sexual and teen dating violence in Carbon County through awareness and prevention activities, and to provide coordinated support and services to women, children, families and communities impacted by this violence.

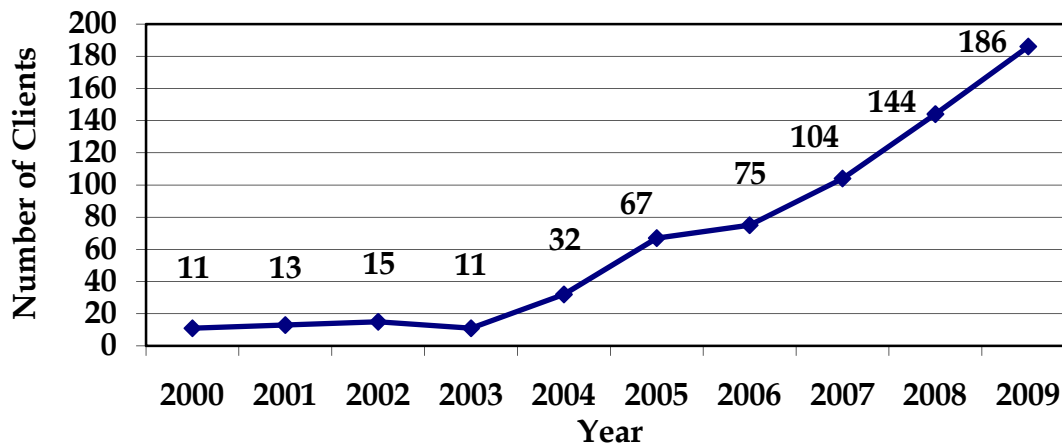
### DSVS DIRECT CLIENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

DSVS' direct client services include:

- Free and confidential 24-hour Helpline support (406-425-2222);
- Hospital, police and court accompaniment for survivors of violence;
- Transport, emergency short-term shelter, food, clothing, children's car seats, cell phones and other support and assistance for survivors of domestic violence and their children, as well as for survivors of sexual assault, teen dating violence and stalking;
- Assistance in applying for orders of protection and for crime victim compensation;
- Support groups, one-on-one support and education for survivors;
- Financial literacy classes focusing on budgeting and credit repair;
- Transitional housing and related support services.

As DSVS' outreach grows, we continue to see the number of direct service clients increase as well. From 2008 to 2009 alone, we saw a 29% increase in the number of clients seeking our services. Chart 1 highlights DSVS' history of clients served.

**Chart 1. Number of clients served by Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Carbon County, 2000-2009.**



DSVS provided clients with 2,164 services in 2009, a 45% increase over the number of services provided in 2008. DSVS volunteer advocates and staff:

- answered 411 Helpline calls;
- facilitated 128 in-person crisis counseling sessions;
- provided 146 nights of emergency shelter;
- provided criminal justice advocacy 133 times;
- provided emergency financial assistance 257 times (money for food, gas, car repairs and prescriptions);
- provided transportation to a safer place 17 times;
- assisted with filing 22 orders of protection;
- made 370 referrals to other social service agencies;
- initiated 428 follow-up contacts with clients.

*To the entire staff of DSVS:*

*You have helped my daughter and me all year long. Thank you so much for your love, support and all that you do. The help you've given us this year has been a blessing for us. I can't say enough for all you do! Thank you!*

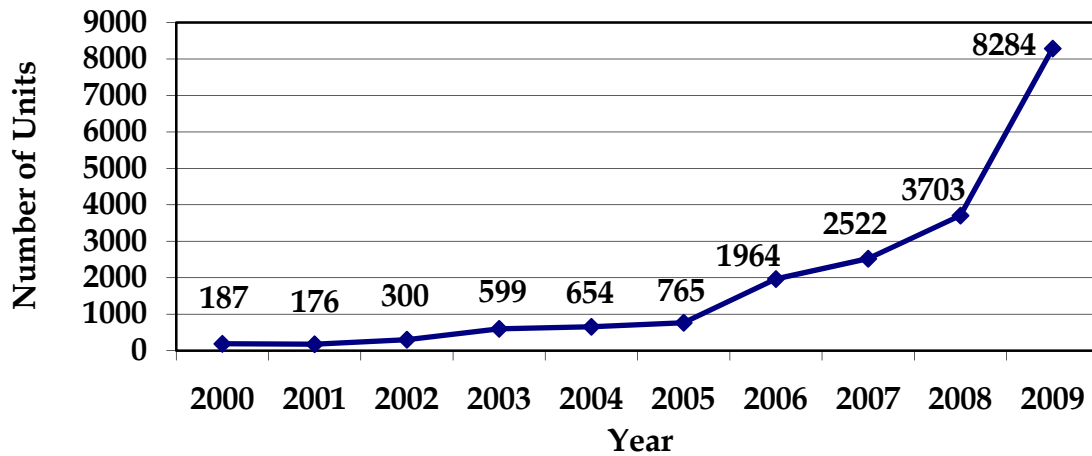
*-letter from client*

## **DSVS EDUCATION, TRAINING, PRIMARY PREVENTION AND OUTREACH**

DSVS' education, training, primary prevention and outreach work includes:

- Intensive, school-based primary prevention programming focusing on healthy relationships, teen dating violence, bullying, cyber-violence and the impact of the media on violence for K-12 students and faculty;
- Medical training for the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Montana Nurses Association, Billings Clinic Psychiatric Conference, Billings Clinic, The Wellness Center, St. Vincent's Hospital, Beartooth Hospital and Health Care Center, Crow Agency Hospital, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and physicians' medical and office staff;
- Professional in-service training for law enforcement, educators, social workers, clergy, therapists and the business community in Carbon County;
- Education and outreach with civic organizations, communities of faith and the public;
- Coordination of Carbon County activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October) and Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April);
- Volunteer advocate and speakers bureau training programs;
- Support and training to a men's group working to develop men's leadership around issues of domestic and sexual violence in Carbon County.

Chart 2. Units of educational programming provided by Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Carbon County, 2000-2009 (one unit equals one hour of training for one person)



## DSVS SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

DSVS' systems development work includes:

- Creation, management and capacity-building of the Carbon County Coordinated Community Response Team (CCR);
- Technical assistance for development of law enforcement protocols for domestic violence;
- Technical assistance for development of hospital protocols for domestic violence and sexual assault;
- Funding for Carbon County systems professionals, including members of law enforcement and the criminal justice system, to attend national-level trainings;
- Consultation and referral for community professionals.



On September 26<sup>th</sup> 2009, DSVS hosted Jean Kilbourne, who is internationally recognized for her pioneering work on the image of women in advertising. Her program, entitled "The Naked Truth: Advertising's Image of Women (and How it Promotes Violence)" was sold out. Kilbourne was named by *The New York Times Magazine* as one of the three most popular speakers on college campuses. Her latest book is *So Sexy So Soon: The New Sexualized Childhood and What Parents Can Do to Protect Their Kids*. Award-winning films based on her lectures include *Killing Us Softly*, *Spin the Bottle* and *Slim Hopes*. She is a frequent guest on radio and television programs including *The Today Show* and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Kilbourne is a Senior Scholar at the Wellesley Centers for Women.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**William Oley, MD, President**

*Billings Clinic - Red Lodge  
Red Lodge, Montana*

**Virginia Korus Spragg, Vice President**

*Writer  
Red Lodge, Montana*

**Becky Wiehe, Secretary**

*Regional Programs Manager,  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Billings, Montana*

**Randy Pendergraft, Treasurer**

*Priest, Yellowstone Episcopal Ministries  
Red Lodge, Montana*

**Wanda Kennicott**

*Red Lodge City Council and DSVS Advocate  
Red Lodge, Montana*

**Phil Robertson, PhD**

*Botanist/Ecologist  
Red Lodge, Montana*

## VOLUNTEERS

For the first several years of the organization's existence, DSVS was operated entirely through the efforts of volunteers and volunteers continue to be the cornerstone of DSVS' work and success. Volunteers staff the 24-hour Helpline, provide emergency services for clients, facilitate support groups, lead fundraising efforts, provide administrative support and facilitate trainings within the community. Twelve community members completed intensive domestic violence advocate training this year, bringing our total number of volunteers to 23. These incredible individuals donated 2,243 volunteer hours to DSVS in 2009 and we are so grateful for their time, energy and commitment!

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Allison Smith-Estelle, PhD**, Executive Director, has worked with DSVS since 2002. Smith-Estelle holds a doctorate in public health and has nineteen years of advocacy and training experience in the field of domestic, sexual and teen dating violence intervention and prevention, both domestically as well as in South Asia. Smith-Estelle's focus has included phone, hospital, police and court advocacy for survivors of violence; designing and conducting training in schools, for domestic violence advocates and for the medical community; public speaking; and developing domestic violence curriculum.

**Mitzi Vorachek, MA**, founded DSVS and served as Executive Director from 1999-2006. She returned as Program Director in 2009. Vorachek has 25 years of leadership and training experience in domestic violence prevention and intervention. Vorachek's work has included developing curriculum and conducting training for law enforcement, school and medical communities; conducting training for domestic violence advocates; designing and producing TV programming; public speaking; and conducting domestic violence research in general, healthcare and student populations. Additionally, she has managed a domestic violence and rape crisis hotline (50,000 calls per year) in a major U.S. city.

## STAFF

**Katia Grigoriants** joined DSVS in 2009 as an Americorps VISTA working with the violence prevention education team. She graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor's degree in psychology and a dual minor in family violence prevention and family social science. She has worked as a prevention educator, a life skills group facilitator and a domestic violence advocate.

**Kristen Hobson** serves as the Transitional Housing Coordinator. Her family is new to Carbon County, relocating to Red Lodge from Salt Lake City in July 2009. Kristen has extensive experience in the health care industry, and during her years working in the industry, played a key role in organizing volunteer efforts for her company.

**Ed Lambrecht, MS**, serves as the Training and Outreach Coordinator. He has 28 years of experience in case management, staff training, program evaluation and working with prevention education. Ed was awarded the Diamond Award and the Center for Adolescent Development GOTCHA Award for his outstanding work with youth.

**Maria Martin, MS** worked with DSVS through the end of 2009 as the Yellowstone County Education Coordinator. While working with DSVS, she simultaneously earned her Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Montana State University-Billings. She is now working on advanced credentials in Billings.

**Kate McQuillan** serves as the Direct Service Case Manager. McQuillan was an intern with DSVS in the summer of 2009 and then joined the staff after graduating from Montana State University-Bozeman in December 2009 with a Bachelor's degree in Health and Human Development with an option in Community Health.

**Patty Mills** joined DSVS in 2008 as the Administrative Manager and retired at the end of 2009. Mills managed all financial, administrative and operations functions for DSVS. She plans to continue with DSVS as a volunteer advocate, as well as work in Yellowstone Park and ride her motorcycle throughout the country.

**Ashley Strobel, LSW**, joined DSVS in 2009 and serves as the Education Coordinator. Before joining the staff she worked extensively with the children's program at a domestic violence shelter in Minnesota. Strobel also completed an internship with the Minnesota Men's Action Network which works to mobilize men in the prevention of sexual and domestic violence.

**Lonnie Taylor** served as the Direct Services and Training Coordinator from 2007 through the end of 2009. Before joining the staff, she was a volunteer advocate for several years. She plans to continue with DSVS as a volunteer advocate, as well as continue to build a family business and serve as Chair of the Belfry School Board.

**Barbara Trapp** rejoined the staff of DSVS in late 2009 after having her second child and serves as the Finance Manager. After earning a Bachelor's degree in 1996, she served as an Intelligence Officer in the U.S. Air Force. In 2000, she transitioned to civilian employment and has since gained experience working at the federal, state and tribal levels and most recently at several local non-profit agencies.