

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES OF CARBON COUNTY

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



**Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Carbon County (DSVS)
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Letter from the Board President and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. We welcome the opportunity to share our work with you.

Courageous. The clients that Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Carbon County (DSVS) serves are courageous in the face of real struggle, brave in times of danger, and resolute in their commitment to keep themselves and their children safe and to live lives that are free of violence. We admire and thank each of them for what they teach us about hope, resilience and inner strength.

Dedicated. Every day, our volunteer advocates, staff and board members quietly help survivors of domestic, sexual and teen dating violence navigate the challenges in their paths, and reaches out to the greater community to provide training and education in order to respond to violence more effectively and prevent violence from occurring in the first place. Each member of our team brings unique talents and great compassion to this work and we are grateful for all they contribute.

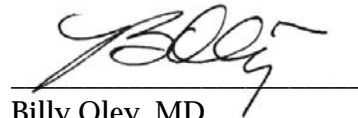
Committed. Our community partners, including those in law enforcement and the criminal justice system, members of the medical and faith communities, as well as educators and other social service providers, consistently demonstrate their commitment to providing coordinated and comprehensive assistance to survivors of violence and to making our community a safer place to live. While their resources are often limited, their commitment seems limitless.

Generous. The individuals and organizations that support DSVS, whether with financial support or in-kind donations, make our work possible. We simply could not do what we do without their generosity and are humbled by the support they have provided through the years.

In 2008, DSVS served a record-breaking 144 people - 111 women, six children, five teens and 21 men. Tragically, our community lost two of its members to a domestic violence homicide; we keep those women and their family members and friends in our hearts. We provided Carbon County students with information, skills and tools to prevent bullying and violence, communicate effectively with their peers, engage in healthy relationships, and find help when they need it. We trained eleven new volunteers, and launched an interactive, multi-dimensional website for teens and adults. Late in the year, we learned that we were one of 34 new programs nationwide to be awarded funding through the United States Department of Justice Rural Violence Against Women Act program. This funding gives us the opportunity to serve our clients and the broader community in a much more comprehensive manner. New programming in 2009 will include an economic literacy training program for our clients,

expanded support group offerings for sexual assault survivors and teen survivors of dating violence, more intensive outreach work with men in our community, an expansion of our school-based primary prevention work to schools in Yellowstone and Stillwater Counties, and an expansion of our training offerings for professionals in the community. This funding will also provide national training opportunities for local judges, prosecutors and law enforcement personnel to enhance their knowledge and ability to serve survivors of domestic, sexual and teen dating violence, hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes and prevent future violence.

Thank you again for your support of our work. It is a privilege to work in a community that cares so much and we look forward to seeing and working with you in 2009!



Billy Oley, MD
Board President



Allison Smith-Estelle, PhD
Executive Director

*"I guess it is good in that I stand as a
testament to the fact that this
can happen to anyone."*

-letter from client

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Carbon County (DSVS) 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.

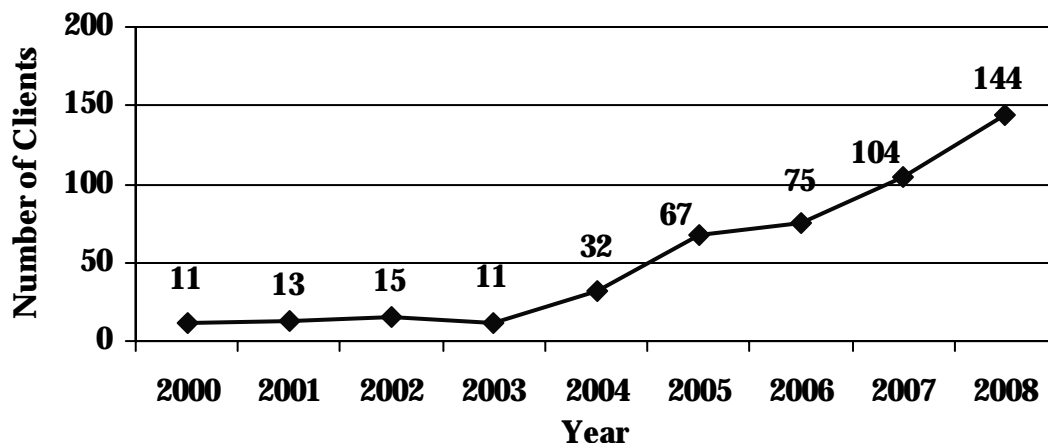
DSVS DIRECT CLIENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

DSVS' direct client services include:

- Free, 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 and teen dating violence;
- Assistance in applying for orders of protection and for crime victim compensation;
- Support groups, one-on-one support, and education for survivors;
- Assistance with parenting plans, supervised visitation and immigration issues.

DSVS continues to see a rapid rise in the number of clients we serve. Chart 1 highlights this growth.

Chart 1. Number of clients served by Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Carbon County, 2000-2008.



DSVS provided 1491 services to 144 clients in 2008. DSVS volunteer advocates and staff:

- answered 266 Helpline calls;
- facilitated 134 in-person crisis counseling sessions;
- provided 50 nights of emergency shelter;
- provided criminal justice advocacy 159 times;
- provided emergency financial assistance 101 times;
- provided emergency childcare 14 times;
- provided transportation to a safer place 10 times;
- assisted with filing 26 orders of protection;
- made 328 referrals to other social service agencies;
- initiated 212 follow-up contacts with clients.

I really could not accept what was happening to me in terms of the abuse. It just (wasn't supposed to) happen to women of my age or my education and abusers just did not look like my boyfriend, but there it was.

-letter from client

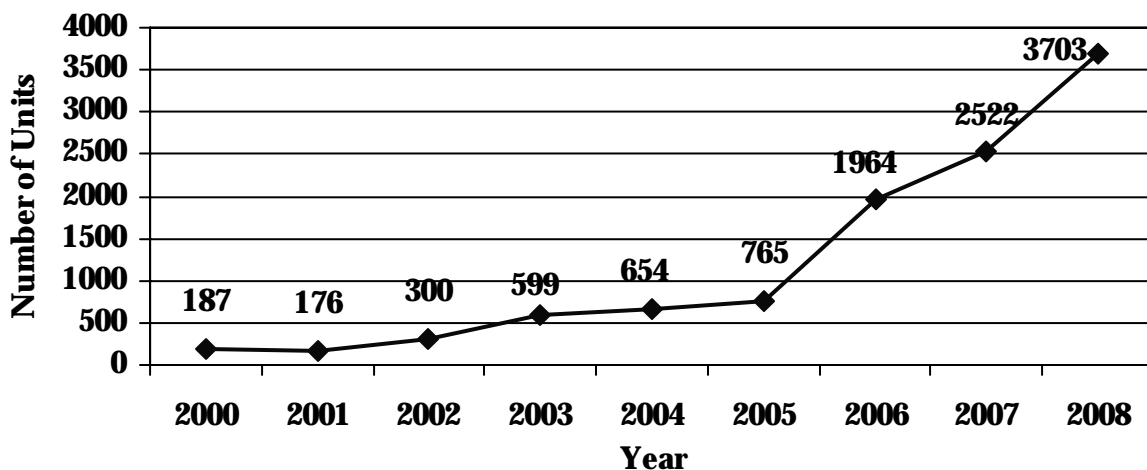
DSVS TRAINING, OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND PRIMARY PREVENTION

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

- School-based education focusing on healthy relationships, preventing bullying and violence, media literacy, technology and abuse, examining gender norms and expectations, and developing good communication skills;
- The DELTA Project, a primary prevention program for young people and the greater community;
- An annual Carbon County Teen Dating Violence Prevention Summit, which provides high school students with the opportunity to gain knowledge, skills, tools and leadership strategies to address teen dating violence;
- Training and funding to school-based Violence Prevention Clubs throughout the County;
- Professional in-service training for law enforcement, educators, social workers, clergy, therapists, and the business community in Carbon County;
- Outreach to civic organizations and the public in Carbon County and the surrounding area;

- Telemedicine training focusing on domestic violence medical assessment for doctors, nurses and other medical staff statewide;
- 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 in Red Lodge, Crow Agency Hospital, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and physicians' medical and office staff;
- 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 here in Carbon County.

Chart 2. Units of educational programming provided by DSVS, 2000-2008. One unit equals one hour of training for one person.



DSVS SYSTEMS WORK

DSVS' systems development work includes:

- Creation, management, and capacity-building of the Carbon County Coordinated Community Response Team (CCR);
- Training for members of law enforcement, the medical and faith communities and other community professionals;
- Technical assistance for development of law enforcement protocols for domestic violence;
- Technical assistance for development of hospital protocols for domestic violence and sexual assault;
- Consultation and referral for community professionals.

THE DSVS TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Oley, M.D., *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

Mitzi Vorachek
Founder, DSVS
Red Lodge, Montana

VOLUNTEERS

For many years, DSVS was staffed entirely by volunteers. While the organization now funds a small staff, volunteers continue to play a critical role in the work and success of DSVS. Volunteers staff the 24-hour Helpline, provide emergency and longer-term services for clients, lead fundraising efforts, provide administrative support in the office, and facilitate support groups and trainings within the community. Eleven community members completed intensive domestic violence advocate training in 2008, bringing our total number of active volunteers to 25. These incredible individuals donated over 1600 hours to DSVS in 2008.

STAFF

Allison Smith-Estelle, Executive Director, has worked for DSVS since 2002. Smith-Estelle holds a PhD in public health and has over fifteen years of advocacy and training experience in the field of domestic and sexual violence intervention and prevention, both domestically (in Rhode Island, Oklahoma and currently in Carbon County) 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.

Lea Hegge, Education Coordinator, joined the staff in 2007. Hegge previously served as Program Director of three Boys & Girls Clubs and currently serves on the Board of the Boys & Girls Club of Carbon County. Hegge has completed domestic violence and sexual assault advocate training, as well as *Mentors in Violence Prevention* training. Hegge coordinates youth

violence prevention activities throughout the county, and is responsible for creating and maintaining relationships with schools and other youth-serving organizations.

Lonnie Taylor serves as Direct Services and Training Coordinator for DSVS. Before joining the staff in 2007, Taylor served as a volunteer advocate for DSVS and was a small business owner. In her capacity as Direct Services and Training Coordinator, Taylor oversees direct client services, the volunteer advocate program and community training and outreach efforts. Taylor has completed domestic violence advocate training, *Mentors in Violence Prevention* training as well as intensive training to facilitate support groups.

Patty Mills, Administrative Manager, joined DSVS in 2008. Mills previously served as Operations Manager for the Beartooth Nature Center in Red Lodge. Mills manages all financial, administrative and operations functions for DSVS including accounts payable/receivable, grants financial reporting, and payroll. She has completed domestic violence advocate training and *Mentors in Violence Prevention* training, and assists in direct service provision.

Roxy LaPorte, Americorps VISTA, began working at DSVS in July 2008. LaPorte is working to expand education and prevention programs and has been implementing violence prevention programs at the Boys & Girls Club of Carbon County as well as violence prevention and healthy relationships presentations and activities at schools throughout the county. LaPorte has completed *Mentors in Violence Prevention* training, and has a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in Women's Studies.

Laura Collins, Americorps VISTA, joined DSVS in 2007. A graduate of Gonzaga University with an emphasis on gender studies, Collins worked to revise the sexual assault policy on her campus. Her work with the Colorado State Public Defender's office gave her exposure to dynamics of violence within the legal system. At DSVS, she spearheaded sexual assault program development efforts, served as a liaison to the men's leadership council, and assisted in developing grant proposals for the organization. Collins left DSVS last summer to attend law school at Emory University.



Figure 1. Publicity materials from the *Roaring 20s* fundraiser, held October 25, 2008. The event raised funds for emergency shelter, food and bus tickets for survivors of violence and their children, as well as for the Annual Teen Dating Violence Prevention Summit and school-based Violence Prevention Clubs.

In-Kind Donations

Mary Ames
Anonymous
Linda and David Beach
Big Sky Linens
Boomerang Beads
Boys & Girls Club of Carbon County
Bull 'N Bear Saloon
Café Regis
Calvary Episcopal Church
Carbon County Coal, Wine & Spirits
Carbon County Steakhouse
Coleman Gallery
Common Ground Western Art & Gifts
Costco
J. L. Emmert
Stephen Estelle Jewelry
Mohria Fawcett-Genesis
Gainan's
Scott Greenlee

Kibler & Kirch
Heins Creative, Inc.
Joliet High School
J. D. Jones
Wanda Kennicott
Donetta Klein
Mike Kosorok
Bonnie McKown
Mignon's Gifts & Flowers
Patty Mills
Sherry Moore
Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)
Linda Norman
Barbara Ostrum
Dominique Paulus-Warner
Suzi Pendergraft
Preceptor Phi
Red Lodge Beverages
Red Lodge Community Church

Red Lodge Drug
Red Lodge Flower Shop
Red Lodge Mountain
Red Lodge Pizza Co.
Red Lodge True Value
Charles Ringer
Rock Creek Resort
Bobbie Sacks
Sage Brush Sirens
Shades & Specs
Susie Smith
Virginia Spragg
Squeaky Rocket Designs
Subway of Laurel
The Pollard Hotel
Twin Elk
Bridger United Methodist
Women
Valley Printers



Photo 1. The new DSVS office in Red Lodge. Staff and volunteers moved into this new space in June 2008. We are grateful for all the support we received during the move and we love our new home. Please come visit!