

UDVC Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2003



**THERE'S
NO EXCUSE FOR
ABUSE**

Special points of interest:

- UDVC has a new name and a new Chair.
- Anyone can Join a UDVC Committee
- DV Awareness Month Calendar of Events
- UDVC seeks membership applications. All are welcome to apply.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

For approximately ten years now October has been declared National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Many national and local events occur during the month to promote awareness about domestic violence. One national event that will be taking place is the "Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day". This event will be held on October eighth. It is organized by the National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence, a project of the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF). The event encourages providers to "Screen to Prevent Abuse". For more information on this event visit the FVPF web site- www.endabuse.org or call toll free 1-888-Rx-Abuse.

During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month UDVC holds their an-

nual Achievement Awards. These awards are given in recognition of outstanding projects and programs completed by an organization or individual that increased public awareness, intervention or prevention of family violence. This year's awards event will be held on October 20th at the new Salt Lake City Library in the fourth floor conference room at 6:00pm.

There are also many local events within the state of Utah that take place during the month of October. Most are sponsored by the local coalitions and domestic violence shelters. These organizations use the time not only to promote awareness and

prevention, but also to honor local and statewide businesses, organizations and individuals who have somehow shown their support in the fight to eliminate domestic violence. A listing of some of the events that will take place statewide will be available on the back page of the newsletter.



Purple ribbons both worn on peoples clothing and displayed in public places have been a nationwide symbolic reminder of domestic violence awareness month. Don't forget to show your support for this important month by wearing a purple ribbon on your collar!

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UDVC is starting out the new fiscal year with a new name and a new chair

During the UDVC Annual Meeting in May, the Council voted to officially change its name from the Utah Domestic Violence Advisory Council to the Utah Domestic Violence Council. The staff of UDVC will be working to

incorporate this change into the many brochures and publications that carry UDVC's name.

In August UDVC voted Stewart Ralphs to be their new Chair.

Ned Searle will be "passing the gavel" to Stewart Ralphs during the October Council Meeting. We are very excited about our new name and our new Chair, this year should be a great one.

Committee Column

UDVC currently has 12 regular committees and one ad-hoc committee. Each committee, while a subset of UDVC, has its own Chair, mission statement and goals.

You do not have to be a UDVC member to be a committee member. In fact, the committees are comprised of professionals working in fields that best support each committee, interested community members and usually one or two UDVC members. Listed below are the current committees of UDVC.

- Treatment Committee
- Government Affairs Committee

- Appropriations Committee
- Public Awareness Committee
- Membership Committee
- Justice Committee
- Interfaith Leaders Committee
- Health Care Committee
- Family Violence Advisory Committee
- Training Ad-Hoc Committee

If you are interested in joining one of these committees or would like more information about the work

they do, please contact the UDVC staff.

UDVC also has an Executive Committee which is comprised of the UDVC staff and Executive Officers, and a Domestic Violence Shelter Directors Committee comprised of Domestic Violence Shelter Directors.



Local October Domestic Violence Awareness Month Events For 2003

October 1

- "Paint the Town Purple", 12:00pm, Provo Historic Courthouse
- "Clear Away the Storms of Domestic Violence", 6:00pm, Richfield City Park

October 4

- One-Mile-Walk to fight Domestic Violence, 9:00am, Richfield Burger King

October 8

- 5k Fun run/walk, 4:00pm, UVSC Student Center

October 9

- Appreciation Banquet, 7:00pm, Richfield Senior Center
- Price Community Awareness Fair, 2:00pm, St. Mathews in Price

October 15

- Candlelight Vigil, 7:00pm, Provo Library @ Academy Square

October 19

- "A Day of Remembrance", 6:30pm, State Capitol Rotunda

October 20

- Finding Voice: The Music of Utah Battered Women, 7:00pm, University of Utah Union Ballroom
- UDVC Annual Achievement Awards, 6:00pm, Salt Lake County Library

October 21

- "Footsteps to Light Empowerment Walk", 5:15pm, 2261 Adams Ave., Ogden

October 23

- Elaine Weiss, Ph.D.– discussing violence against women. Tea and Dessert Served, 12:00pm, YWCA, reservation required– 537-8609
- Authors reading From "Lita" at Kings English, 1511 South 1500 East please call 537-8609 for event time

October 24

- Dollhouse Festival, 10:00am, Provo Marriott Hotel
- Panel Discussion: Link Between Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse, 12:00pm, University of Utah Union Building Theatre

October 25

- Dollhouse Festival, 10:00am, Provo Marriott Hotel
- Co-ed four on four outdoor volleyball tournament, 9:30am, Sugar House Park, 2100 South 1300 East, East Field call 537-8607 for more information

October 30

- Piute County Appreciation Dinner, 7:00pm, Piute County Courthouse

Council Membership

There has been some confusion in the past about how to become a member of UDVC. UDVC is a grass roots organization that welcomes all community members to fill out a membership application. Applications can be filled out at any time. Once the application is received, provided there are seats available on the Council, the Membership Committee looks at the geographic and professional representation already present on the Council. They then make a recommendation for membership during the next council meeting.



The applicant's membership is voted on during the following month's meeting.

There are currently six seats available on the Council, two of which must be filled by Domestic Violence Shelter representatives. If you submit an application and there are no seats available the application is kept on file with the Membership Com-

mittee.

Another common misnomer about the UDVC meetings is that you must be invited to attend. UDVC welcomes everyone in the community to attend the monthly meetings and to share their comments and concerns. UDVC is committed to leading a collaborative, statewide effort to eliminate domestic violence, and we know we can't do it alone. We would love to see more people from the community attending our monthly meetings and getting involved. The UDVC meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM, except for the month of December.

A Message From UDVC's Incoming Chair, Stewart Ralphs

I had the privilege of doing a presentation about protective orders for a group from the Segó Lilly Center for the Abused Deaf recently. At the end of the presentation, I emphasized the importance of obtaining protective orders, however, I acknowledged to the group that the process of doing so is often very frustrating. Not surprisingly, my admission drew a room full of concurrences.

I often view our work on the Utah Domestic Violence Council in like manner – while it is very important,

it is often very frustrating. In order to accomplish our goal of eliminating domestic violence in our homes and in our society, we face many obstacles and challenges. Although most of those obstacles and challenges are from “the other side” such as abusers, defense attorneys, etc., some of the challenges are more intramural in nature such as petitioner's attorneys, DCFS workers, law enforcement, judges, legislators, etc. Regardless of the obstacles and frustrations we have faced in the past, I think what sets the Utah Domestic Violence Council apart is our demon-

strated willingness to work together to accomplish greater goods.

As the “unexpected” new chair of the Council, my sincere hope is that in the coming year we will continue to work together, no matter what obstacles or challenges may arise or how frustrated we may get, to make even greater progress in achieving the mission of the Council in eliminating domestic violence in our state and, until we accomplish that goal, in supporting one another in providing assistance to victims of domestic violence.

2003 Annual Treatment Providers Conference

Recently the UDVC Annual Treatment Providers Conference was held in Ogden at the Ogden Eccles Conference Center. Almost 300 treatment providers statewide attended this year's conference.

The title this year was “Domestic Violence Treatment in Focus”. Two National speakers pre-

sented at the conference along with over 15 local presenters.

If you did not get a chance to attend the conference but you would like to still be part of the experience, videos of the conference are available in the UDVC main library for check-out.

If you did not receive a reg-

istration in the mail for this year's conference and you would like to attend next year, please contact the UDVC staff to be placed on the mailing list.

Thanks to all who attended for helping to make this year's conference spectacular! We hope to see you all next year.

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There's no Excuse For Abuse

*Find us online at
UDVAC.org*

For domestic violence information call:
1-800-897 LINK

Mission Statement

To lead a collaborative , statewide effort to eliminate domestic violence.

Philosophy

- Domestic Violence is a crime.
- Domestic Violence is preventable.
- Victims/survivors are not to blame.
- Perpetrators are responsible for their own actions.
- The most effective way to reduce domestic violence is through coordinated, community efforts.

Goals

- Support laws that provide protection and accountability.
- Educate public and professional entities to understand and effectively address domestic violence as a critical social issue.
- Provide effective resources for victims perpetrators, families and communities.

An Overview

Established in the late 1970's, the Utah Domestic Violence Council (UDVC) represents various public and private providers, and advocacy and allied agency group from rural and urban Utah working in collaboration with the Governor's Cabinet Council on Domestic violence and 23 local coalitions, the UDVC coordinates intervention and educates about key legislation and resource development. Projects include six resource libraries across the state, various free publications , training, conference coordination, awareness campaigns and technical assistance.

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