

HAVIN News

Helping All Victims In Need

FALL 2007

From the Executive Director...

I live with a hunter but I am not his hunted...I am not anti-gun, I am anti-gun violence. Buck season is soon upon us, and for many in Armstrong County and throughout Pennsylvania, the first day of buck season is akin to a national holiday. I am an "advocate" for controlling the deer population through legalized hunting, given that I have "hit" six deer, killing three of them with my car! Yes, I even cook and eat deer, and I also love to ride motorcycles. Many of those who think they know me, are often surprised by this information.

There are preconceived notions about me because I am an Executive Director of a domestic violence shelter. I have been accused of many things, including the following:

1. Being "anti-gun". I am not anti-gun, I am anti-gun violence. If my husband or other family members use or threaten to use their guns to harm me, then they have violated a law and risk having their guns taken from them.
2. Being "anti-father" or of wanting to take all father's rights away. I am not anti-father, I am anti-parent committing violence against their children and/or their children's other parent. Father or mother.
3. Being anti-marriage and advocating that all women get a divorce. I am not anti-marriage, I am anti-violence within the sanctity of marriage. The gender of the victim does not matter. I do not believe that a marriage license gives anyone the license to be violent with their partner.
4. Being anti-men. I am not anti-men, I am anti-violent men and unfortunately statistics show that most violent partners are male. I don't care if you are a violent male or female. No one you profess to love or care about deserves to be physically, sexually, emotionally or financially violated by you.
5. Being pro-women and only believing the "woman's" side of a story. I lost my rose colored "I believe everything all women tell me" glasses long ago. I do, though, understand that sometimes women and men in abusive situations lie to survive.

Humor me and log onto the internet and watch this very short video that a dear friend recently sent to me. Please watch it now or shortly after you read this message. A side note, it is not about hunting or guns, it is about perceptions. <http://www.maniacworld.com/Phone-Salesman-Amazes-Crowd.html>

Many of us that work toward ending domestic violence are judged by pre-conceived notions that have no basis in fact. We are believed to be anti-male, anti-marriage, anti-father, anti-gun, thus anti-hunting, which for some in Armstrong County nearly equates to being "anti-American." So, I am asking those of you who do not really know me, or many of us in the domestic violence movement, don't judge "our" book by "our" cover! I am fortunate because I never feel fearful of my husband, whether he is armed or unarmed. I live with a hunter, but I am not his hunted. We should all be so fortunate.

Jo Ellen Bowman, LSW

Special Points of Interest:

- * **2006 Domestic Violence Fatality Report**
- * **October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**
- * **Elder Abuse**
- * **Internet Safety**
- * **Westmoreland County United Way's Day of Caring**
- * **Shop 'N Save/Charapp Food and Phone Raiser**
- * **Santa Snippers**
- * **Adopt-A-Family for the Holidays**

HAVIN would like to thank the **Ed & Kay Steiner Memorial Fund**, a component of the Armstrong County Community Foundation. With their support, HAVIN is able to make our emergency shelter a safe and more comfortable place for the people we serve. A special thanks to Jack Steiner for his ongoing support of HAVIN.

HAVIN would like to thank Kit-Han-Ne Car Club (which host monthly cruises) for sponsoring *Car Cruise for HAVIN* on October 3rd. Classic and custom cars cruised into the Cadet Restaurant, Kittanning with proceeds going to HAVIN. Thanks to Jodi (HAVIN Board Member) and Larry Beers, and Holly Riggie (HAVIN Volunteer) for volunteering at the event. A special thanks to Bobbie Jensen, Car Club President, for organizing the event. Cruise into the next *Car Cruise for HAVIN* on July 12, 2008! Stay tuned!!!

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect battered women's advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became a special week when a range of activities were conducted at the local, state, and national levels.

In October 1987, the first national Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) was held. In conjunction, that same year the first national toll-free hotline was begun. In 1989, Congress passed the first DVAM commemorative legislation. Such legislation has been passed every year since 1989. The Day of Unity is now celebrated the first Monday in October. In October 1987, the first national Domestic Violence Awareness Month was held.

What began more than two decades ago in scattered communities as a visible gesture of support for survivors and victims of domestic violence, today has become one of the most widely recognized symbols of the battered women's movement - the purple ribbon.

Across the country, families and friends of victims have adopted the purple ribbon to remember and honor their loved ones who have lost their lives at the hands of a person they once loved and trusted. Shelters and local battered women's programs use the purple ribbon to raise awareness about the crime of domestic violence in their communities.

In addition to the demonstration of support for victims and advocates, the display of purple ribbons throughout a community conveys a powerful message that there's no place for domestic violence in the homes, neighborhoods, workplaces or schools of its citizens.

WAYS ANY ADULT CAN MAKE ENDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HIS OR HER BUSINESS

- * Cultivate a respectful attitude toward members of your family and at your workplace. Avoid behaviors that demean or control others.
- * When you are angry with your partner or children, respond without hurting or humiliating them. Model a non-violent, respectful response to resolving conflicts in your family. Call a domestic violence or child abuse prevention program for their help if you continue to hurt members of your family.
- * If you have a friend or co-worker who is afraid of their partner or who is being hurt, offer them your support and refer them to HAVIN.
- * Learn about domestic violence services in your community. Contribute your time (volunteer!), and resources.
- * Call the police if you see or hear violence in progress.
- * Talk to your friends and neighbors when they belittle others, make a joke about violence, or ignore a domestic violence survivor.
- * Develop a safety campaign in your workplace, neighborhood, school or church. Build a consensus among your colleagues and neighbors that abusive behavior and language is unacceptable.
- * Invite a speaker from HAVIN to your school, community group, or church to talk about domestic violence.
- * Examine your own life for violence and oppressive behaviors. Try to live a violence free-life.

Information provided by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, the National Domestic Violence Awareness Project, and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

HAVIN staff did their part to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Our actions included submitting public service announcements to Family Life TV for the month of October. Packets of information on domestic violence were distributed to churches and other community agencies within Armstrong County. The Armstrong Center for Medicine & Health helped disseminate packages on October 10th for National *Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day*.



Pictured from Left: Commissioner Jim Scahill; Commissioner Patty Kirkpatrick; Heather DeMeno, HAVIN's Outreach/Education Coordinator; and Commissioner Rich Fink.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month displays were placed in the Freeport, Kittanning, Apollo, Worthington, and Ford City libraries; in the Armstrong County Courthouse Annex; and at the Armstrong County Chamber of Commerce. On October 4th, the Armstrong County Commissioners signed a proclamation supporting that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Thank you all for supporting HAVIN and helping to raise awareness in our community!

2006 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REPORT

During January to December 2006, 95 domestic violence incidents in 40 counties resulted in 127 deaths.

Who Died: 92 Victims

- *64 Female
 - *64 - 18+ years of age
- *28 Male
 - *23 - 18+ years of age
 - * 2 - 13-17 years of age
 - * 3 - 0-12 years of age
- *30 Perpetrators Committed Suicide
- * 2 Perpetrators Killed by Police
- * 3 Perpetrators Killed in Self-Defense

Who Did the Killing

- *75 Males
- *11 Females

How They Died

- 49 Shot
- 1 Beaten & Shot
- 10 Stabbed
- 6 Beaten, Strangled & Stabbed
- 3 Beaten
- 2 Beaten with a bat
- 2 Stabbed & Stashed
- 1 Beaten & Asphyxiated
- 1 Beaten & Thrown from a Moving Truck
- 1 Beaten With a Bat & Strangled
- 1 Beaten With a Crowbar
- 1 Beaten With a Metal Bar, Stabbed & Slashed
- 1 Bludgeoned, Strangled & Dismembered
- 1 Dropped from a Window
- 1 Hit by a Car & Pinned to a Wall
- 1 Hit With a Microwave & Stomped On
- 1 Kicked
- 1 Kicked, Beaten & Bludgeoned With a Bat
- 1 Killed in Car Crash
- 1 Killed in House Fire
- 1 Lit on Fire
- 1 Punched
- 1 Smothered With a Pillow
- 1 Stabbed & Dismembered
- 1 Strangled
- 1 Suffocated

The weapon of choice in 2006 was a **GUN...**
54.3% of victims were shot by their perpetrator.

ELDER ABUSE

Elder abuse research is still in its infancy. Relying mostly on adult protective service data, it has widely been assumed that elder abuse is largely caused by stressed-out care givers. Elder abuse is a growing problem. Elder abuse can be physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotion or psychological abuse, neglect, abandonment, and/or financial or material exploitation. Prime circumstances for abuse occur when people are vulnerable, when physical or mental impairments have made us dependent on others.

Physical abuse is defined as the use of physical force that may result in bodily injury, physical pain, or impairment. Physical abuse may include, but is not limited to, such acts of violence as striking (with or without an object), hitting, beating, pushing, shoving, shaking, slapping, kicking, pinching, and burning. In addition, inappropriate use of drugs and physical restraints, force-feeding, and physical punishment of any kind are also examples of physical abuse.

Sexual abuse is defined as non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an elderly person. Sexual contact with any person incapable of giving consent is also considered sexual abuse. It includes, but is not limited to, unwanted touching, all types of sexual assault or battery, such as rape, sodomy, coerced nudity, and sexually explicit photographing.

Emotional or psychological abuse is defined as the infliction of anguish, pain, or distress through verbal or non-verbal acts. Emotional/psychological abuse includes, but is not limited to verbal assaults, insults, threats, intimidation, humiliation, and harassment. In addition, treating an older person like an infant; isolating an elderly person from his/her family, friends, or regular activities; giving an older person the "silent treatment;" and enforced social isolation are examples of emotional/psychological abuse.

Neglect is defined as the refusal or failure to fulfill any part of a person's obligations or duties to an elder. Neglect may also include failure of a person who has fiduciary responsibilities to provide care for an elder (e.g., pay for necessary home care services) or the failure on the part of an in-home service provider to provide necessary care. Neglect typically means the refusal or failure to provide an elderly person with such life necessities as food, water, clothing, shelter, personal hygiene, medicine, comfort, personal safety, and other essentials included in an implied or agreed-upon responsibility to an elder.

Abandonment is defined as the desertion of an elderly person by an individual who has assumed responsibility for providing care for an elder, or by a person with physical custody of an elder.

Financial or material exploitation is defined as the illegal or improper use of an elder's funds, property, or assets. Examples include, but are not limited to, cashing an elderly person's checks without authorization or permission; forging an older person's signature; misusing or stealing an older person's money or possessions; coercing or deceiving an older person into signing any document (e.g., contracts or will); and the improper use of conservatorship, guardianship, or power of attorney.

Self-neglect is characterized as the behavior of an elderly person that threatens his/her own health or safety. Self-neglect generally manifests itself in an older person as a refusal or failure to provide himself/herself with adequate food, water, clothing, shelter, personal hygiene, medication (when indicated), and safety precautions. The definition of self-neglect excludes a situation in which a mentally competent older person, who understands the consequences of his/her decisions, makes a conscious and voluntary decision to engage in acts that threaten his/her health or safety as a matter of personal choice.

Reducing the risk of elder abuse will require the efforts of the community. Concerned community members can report abuse to authorities and advocate for public awareness of elder abuse. If you would like more information on elder abuse, visit the National Center on Elder Abuse at www.ncea.aoa.gov, the Area Agency on Aging at www.co.armstrong.pa.us/agingindex.htm, or contact HAVIN at 724-548-8888 or 800-841-8881.

Information provided by the National Center on Elder Abuse and Area Agency on Aging.

DANGERS ON THE INTERNET!

The use of computer technology is widely accepted today as the method in which children access educational information, spend recreational time, and communicate with their peers. However, today's technology can also be used for harmful purposes, such as stalking and sexual predators online.

- * Close to 9 in 10 teens in the United States use the Internet and 65% of all teens say they use instant messaging.
- * 45% of teens own a cell phone.
- * 1 in 5 teens who regularly use the internet receive a sexual solicitation. 1 in 33 received an aggressive sexual solicitation where the solicitor asked to meet them somewhere; called them on the phone; sent them surface mail, i.e. money or gifts.

Though parents are generally quite vigilant about protecting their younger children from the content of specific types of sites and put clear limits on the amount of time spent online and the reasons for it, teens report that they are largely unsupervised by their parents while online.

One of the attractions of the Internet is the anonymity of the user, and this is why it can be so dangerous. A child doesn't always know with whom he or she is interacting. Often we think of pedophiles as having access to children out on the playground and other places, but because of the way the Internet works, children can actually be interacting on their home computers with adults who pretend to be children.

Child sexual exploitation occurs in every economic, social, ethnic, and religious group. With the explosion of the Internet into a powerful, worldwide medium, the danger to children has drastically increased. Pedophiles and other sexual predators can use the Internet, with no precautions, to exchange names and addresses of other pedophiles and of potential child victims. Hidden behind screen names that are pseudonyms, they gather online and swap child pornography with amazing speed and in amounts beyond our wildest imagination, which excites them to molest even more.

The most common means by which sexual predators contact children over the Internet is through chat rooms, instant messages and email. In fact, 89% of sexual solicitations were made in either chat rooms or instant messages and 1 in 5 youth (ages 10-17 years) have been sexually solicited online (JAMA, 2001). Considering that 25% of kids online participate in real time chat and 13 million use instant messaging, the risks of such children, either knowingly or unknowingly, interacting with a predator is alarming.

When it comes to the Internet, parents need to worry about sexual predators online and teach their children some safety tips while being online.

- * Teach your children not to give out their name, age, address, school, phone number, or a picture of themselves without your permission.
- * Teach your children not to make arrangements to meet with anyone that they met on the Internet.
- * Teach your children that if they receive or see something online that seems bad or strange, to not respond to it and to show an adult.
- * Teach your children not to open or accept emails, enclosures, links or other things from people online they do not know.

Children typically know more about the Internet than their parents do. You can implement responsible safeguards, ensuring that your children will have safe, educational, and entertaining online experiences. Educate yourself about cyberspace. Raise your awareness of the benefits as well as the risks of going online. Take advantage of the safety tips and information on software tools and technology. For more information on child safety on the internet visit www.protectkids.com/kidsonline or contact HAVIN at 724-548-8888 or 800-841-8881 for resources.



Volunteers: Sandra Miller, Amber Jones, Barb Holben, Vonda Cataldi, Lori Bleggi, Tonya Renfro, Rebecca Mense, Alexandria Lash, Laura Christy, and Brenda Budziszewski.

UNITED WAY OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY DAY OF CARING

The Day of Caring is a volunteer event that supports local agencies by providing services such as building playhouses, painting buildings, and cleaning up parks/buildings. This year the Day of Caring was on September 13th. Volunteers from the Career Training Academy helped clean up HAVIN's offices by scrubbing, sweeping, dusting...you name it, they cleaned it. We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped and thank the United Way of Westmoreland County for their ongoing support.

Thank You Alcoa Foundation!!

The Alcoa Foundation is a separately constituted not-for-profit U.S. corporate foundation whose mission is to "actively invest in the quality of life in Alcoa communities worldwide." The Alcoa Foundation recently awarded HAVIN an \$8,000 grant to assist with training our community on domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and support for our Emergency Shelter. We truly appreciate Alcoa's commitment to improving the lives of those we serve. A special thanks to Kathy Yandura, of Alcoa, who works tirelessly to support many community projects.

Pictured to the right: Dr. Jimmy Williams, Director of Alcoa Defense Sector and Jo Ellen Bowman, Executive Director of HAVIN.



Thanks to Michelle Bond and the Alle-Kiski HOPE Center and GAKA (The Greater Alle-Kiski Board of Realtors) for joining HAVIN in our first major joint fundraiser, the "Tastes of Distinction" held on September 22, 2007. We want to especially thank and highly recommend you patronize our food sponsors which included "Just for You" Catering, 724-543-6389; Garda's Italian Restaurant, 724-763-7676; D.D.'s Catering, 412-492-8530; Gail's Ladylocks, 724-727-2674; and Grammy's Cakes, 724-845-9422. Jonathan Coulter of "le Café" 724-727-9651 was our wine consultant.

Event sponsors included Kittanning Charapp-Chrysler-Jeep Dodge, Dale Groce with Gunn Allen Financial, Northwest Savings Bank, Bechman Realty, Terrill's Classic Autobody, Elizabeth Harris with Mutual of America, Prudential Realty, ESS Insurance, Armstrong County's District Attorney Scott Andreassi and Sheriff Larry Crawford, The Valley News Dispatch, Dr. Paul Lobby, OD, Home Loan Financial Services, Sonie (Armstrong County Treasurer) and Bob Mervis, Home Town Properties, Inc., Harmon Homes, Brenda DeMeno and Merrill Lynch, First Commonwealth bank, Around Town Tires, Tower Auto Sales, Kittanning Dairy Queen, Century 21, Farmer's National Bank, RE/MAX Select Realty, Curran-Shaffer Funeral Home, Czekalski Real Estate, Inc., and ANPAC. The food was wonderful, the wine flowed nicely, the art was wonderful...if you missed this year's event, stay tuned. I want to especially thank the planning committee chaired by Brandy Fabry, HAVIN Staff and Board of Directors, Jim and Georgia Furlong for all of their support and hard work, especially HAVIN's Board President, Maria LeClaire who also attended the planning meetings! Stay tuned...we are already planning a bigger, better event in Fall 2008!

**SHOP 'N SAVE/CHARAPP CHRYSLER-JEEP-DODGE
"FOOD AND PHONE" RAISER for HAVIN's Shelter**

WHERE: Shop 'N Save, Franklin Village Mall
& Charapp, State Route 422 East
WHEN: November 30th & December 1st
December 7th & December 8th
9:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

Charapp will provide vehicles in their showroom from November 30th until December 8th, and in the parking lot at Shop 'N Save on the above dates only for you to fill with old cell phones, non-perishable food items, toiletries, money and/or gift certificates. Every donation qualifies you to enter a drawing to win a \$300 gift certificate at Shop 'N Save just in time for Holiday shopping!

**COME AND HELP FILL UP THE VEHICLES TO
SUPPORT HAVIN!!!**

This event is co-sponsored by
Shop 'N Save, Kittanning and
Kittanning Charapp Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge.

HAVIN provides **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault as well as their significant others. Our services include:

- * 24-Hour Hotline
- * Emergency Shelter
- * Individual and Group Counseling
- * Medical and Legal Advocacy and Accompaniment
- * Information and Referral

If you or someone you know needs HAVIN's services, please call our hotlines at 724-548-8888 or 800-841-8881. Or visit www.havinpa.org to learn more!

HAVIN's Outreach/Education Department provides **FREE** educational programs to church groups, schools, community organizations, workplaces etc. Programs can be modified to meet your needs. Some program topics include:

- * Domestic Violence
- * Sexual Assault
- * Dating Violence
- * Child Abuse

For more information on programs, please contact Heather DeMeno at 724-543-1180 ext. 222.

The Holidays are just around the corner!!

**Santa Snippers
Sunday, December 2, 2007
12 P.M. to 5 P.M.**

**Kittanning Beauty School
120 Market Street, Kittanning PA 16201**

Once again the Kittanning Beauty School is sponsoring Santa Snippers. Please support their efforts and HAVIN while getting ready for the holidays for only \$5.00! Professional stylists volunteer their time to cut hair while students do the prep work...they even donate their tips! No appointments...first come first serve! For more information or directions, call the Kittanning Beauty School at 724-548-2031. Being a part of this event helps participants see the true meaning of Christmas, professional stylists and students donate their time and talent to the people HAVIN serves. This is a great way to kick-off the holiday season!

Adopt-A-Family for the Holidays

Oftentimes survivors of domestic and sexual violence trying to begin a violence free life face financial difficulties. Many lack the resources to provide a Christmas for their children. HAVIN staff coordinates "Adopt-a-Family" for those who have received services over the past year. With the support from our community, we try to help make their holiday special. If you or your organization would be interested in helping our families, please contact Carrie Yancy at 724-543-1180 ext. 225.

Congratulations...It's a beautiful baby girl!!!

HAVIN would like to congratulate Suzanne (HAVIN Board Member) and Scott Hogamier on welcoming their daughter Leah Eileen Hogamier into the world on September 20th.

**THANK YOU
ARMSTRONG COUNTY!**

HAVIN relies heavily on the generosity of our community. On behalf of the survivors of domestic and sexual violence as well as their families, we thank you for choosing to support HAVIN through your generous donations of clothing, toys, household items and money.

SHELTER WISHLIST

Non-Perishable Food	Pillows
Grocery/Dept. Store	Alarm Clocks
Gift Cards	Plastic Bins
Prepaid Phone cards	Blankets
Towels/Washcloths	Paper Products
Cleaning Products	Mops/Brooms
Laundry Detergent	Fabric Softener
Laundry Baskets	Hand Lotion
Curling Irons	Hair Dryers
Money designated for Client Relocation and Direct Service Needs	



**P.O. Box 983
Kittanning, PA 16201**

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24 Hour Hotline
(724) 548-8888
1-800-841-8881
www.havinpa.org



HAVIN is a
Westmoreland County
United Way agency.

I WANT TO MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO HAVIN, INC.!

_____ I would like HAVIN to use this donation where it is most needed.

_____ I would like HAVIN to use this donation for

_____.

\$30 will provide food and shelter for one day.

Send donations to: HAVIN, Inc., P.O. Box 983, Kittanning, PA 16201.

HAVIN, Inc. is funded in part by grants from the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the United Way. A copy of the official registration and financial information for HAVIN may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free in