



- North Worcester County
- Serves over 6,000 women and children and over 13,000 students each year

BWRI has addressed the needs of domestic violence victims and their families with its 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, SAFEPLAN advocates, crisis counseling and community education in Northern Worcester County for more than 30 years.

In 2007, BWRI formed a partnership with the YWCA of Central Massachusetts located in Worcester to help expand its services to include self-sufficiency assistance such as housing, education, child care and job training. This merger creates the largest women's advocacy and resource center in central Massachusetts and brings a solid regional focus to the issues facing women and their families in the central area, including domestic violence.

SERVICES:

The Aralia Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter can provide temporary housing for up to six women and their children in six bedrooms, with cribs available for infants or toddlers. Aralia guests have several kinds of support groups available to them: Domestic Violence support groups, substance abuse groups, a personal care workshop, and a journaling group.

Domestic Violence Health Care Initiative is a new venture designed to promote programs that focus on the prevention and early intervention of domestic violence. The first priority is to raise the awareness of domestic violence as a serious public health issue not only among victims, but members of the medical profession and the community as well. The second priority is to train physicians, nurses and auxiliary health care workers how to recognize, treat and refer patients identified as victims of domestic violence. The initiative will reach all of North Central Massachusetts over the next several years, beginning with a partnership with Health Alliance.



"The Empty Place at the Table" honors those whose lives have been taken as a result of domestic violence. This

The Community Education program is responsible for outreach in the community, supplying educational materials to local businesses and agencies, as well as delivering presentations on domestic violence. The BWRI School Violence Prevention Program presented to over 12,000 students in 13 school districts during the 2003-2004 school year. BWRI's curriculums are available to school districts throughout the North Central Massachusetts area. The community educators present to classes K-12. Curriculums are currently centered on two main themes: Bullying, Hands Are Not For Hitting and Conflict Resolution and Healthy Relationship / Teen Dating Violence.



Throughout the year, this program coordinates events including trainings, workshops, fundraisers, agency displays, art and/or memorial exhibits, police appreciation ceremonies, library displays, and purple ribbon campaigns.

A group of young men gather to sign and watch as their friend take a moment to sign the Mother's Day Plaque

CAMPAIGN:

1000 Strong Women Campaign! came out of BWRI's desire to raise capital for our agency and to create a vehicle to identify women leaders - Strong Women - in the twenty-nine communities that encompass North Central Massachusetts. It is BWRI's firm belief that a community of women can move mountains and create change. The funds raised through the campaign will help build our capacity to serve women and children in all areas of North Central Massachusetts, replenish depleted reserves from two years of budget cuts and start a building fund.

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