

*There is in every true woman's heart,
a spark of heavenly fire,
which lies dormant in the broad
daylight of prosperity,
but which kindles up and beams and
blazes in the dark hour of adversity.*

-Washington Irving

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSOURI COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE



ABOUT MCADSV

The Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV) is the membership coalition of those working in the Missouri movement to end violence against women. Founded in 1980, MCADSV has more than 100 member programs that provide services to victims of violence against women. Since its beginning, MCADSV has worked to ensure there is someone to talk to, someplace to go and someone to help women victimized by violence when they need it most. MCADSV's members—individuals and organizations from throughout the state—count on the Coalition to provide them with the resources, training and expertise to further social justice in their own communities, as well as a unified voice at the state level to improve public policy, systems and responses to violence against women. To further these aims, MCADSV provides the following services to its members and the communities they serve:

- ▶ **EDUCATION:** MCADSV educates the general public about domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence and stalking; trains professionals; and advocates public policy to prevent and alleviate violence against women.
- ▶ **ASSISTANCE:** MCADSV provides technical assistance, training and support to members and related communities of service providers.
- ▶ **ALLIANCE:** MCADSV provides opportunities for communication among those working in the movement to end violence against women.
- ▶ **RESEARCH:** MCADSV researches the extent of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence and stalking to more effectively reduce its impact and occurrence in the lives of Missouri's women.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Ending violence against women, creating social change, serving survivors and responding to victims is work that takes commitment, heart, energy, creativity and an unrelenting belief in our power to make a difference. We have to believe that our contributions carry power individually and as a greater whole, or we could not continue to give our all each and every day. It is this belief in one's personal power to make a difference—shared with our allies at the national, state and community level—that allows us to move forward with our vision and mission to address and prevent violence against women in Missouri.

In my 20 years as director of MCADSV, I have been surrounded by those who believe that they have the power to make a difference, even in the face of adversity. It is this belief that has enabled us—as individuals, as a movement, as a coalition—to sustain the work that we do.

I remain committed to our collective power to change the world. I remain hopeful about ending violence against women. I remain inspired each day by the women who are survivors. And I am encouraged by the women who do “front-line” advocacy work, who as they are offered opportunities for leadership, embrace it and are good at it. This has been made evident by the number of women who attend MCADSV events—from trainings to regional meetings; by those who participate in MCADSV projects, workgroups and initiatives; by those who speak truth to power during our annual Regional Legislative Advocacy Days. It is each of these women's enthusiasm that underscores that we do our work because we are patriots, we believe in justice, we respect our system of laws and we expect it to live up to its highest potential of serving the needs of the populace. We demand justice because we believe it is nothing less than our right.

I am pleased to provide this report to you as a reflection of this past year's work. Each accomplishment is a result of the effort of our staff, the dedication of our member advocates, and the support of our friends. We engage in this life-saving, life-changing work together. Let each triumph renew our commitment to strive toward the day the violence ends.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Colleen Coble".

Colleen Coble
Chief Executive Officer

PROMOTING QUALITY SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS

The Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence works to make sure that Missouri's 109 domestic and sexual violence programs have the training and support they need to provide high quality, respectful services to survivors.

A total of 2,762 service providers trained in 2008.

MCADSV coordinates an annual schedule of training events designed to help domestic and sexual violence service providers and allied professionals improve services available to survivors. This year, the Coalition offered 104 separate training events throughout the state of Missouri. These events included statewide trainings; the Coalition's three-day Annual Conference; the 2008 Leadership Institute; regularly scheduled regional trainings; on-site trainings for member programs; and community-based trainings.

MCADSV STAFF RESPONDED TO 2,169 REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ADVOCATES

MCADSV operates a toll-free helpline for Missouri's advocacy community. Advocates can call the helpline to receive direct, problem-solving services in a variety of areas, from best practices and enhancing skills in providing direct services, to non-profit management and governance.

In an anonymous satisfaction survey 93% of the respondents reported that the technical assistance they received from MCADSV was either "helpful" or "very helpful," and 100% indicated that they would contact MCADSV again for assistance or resources.

SERVICE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

Just two years after the Coalition's official mission expansion to include sexual violence, MCADSV completed its first 10 standards for sexual assault services. These standards were adopted by the Missouri Department of Public Safety as requirements for programs receiving state and federal grant funding. The Coalition also has standards for domestic violence and batterers intervention programs, which have also been adopted by the Missouri Departments of Public Safety and Social Services.

*More than
40,000 victims
and survivors
received
life-saving,
life-changing
services at
Missouri domestic
and sexual violence
programs in 2008.*



13% of women

in Missouri

report experiencing

unwanted sex in

their lifetime.

22% of women

in Missouri report

being physically hurt

by an intimate partner.

Source: Missouri Department of
Health and Senior Services

IMPROVING PUBLIC POLICY

MCADSV achieved \$2 million in additional state funds to pay for the costs of sexual assault forensic evidence exams.

No sexual assault victim should be required to pay for the evidence collection required to aid in the prosecution of her attacker. That's why the Coalition advocated for funding during the 2008 session of the Missouri General Assembly to cover the costs of these exams for all victims.

In a victory for the Coalition, and the survivors it represents, the General Assembly increased funding for the sexual assault forensic exam program to \$2 million in the Fiscal Year 2009 state budget. This program was transferred from the Department of Health and Senior Services to the Department of Public Safety, Crime Victims' Compensation Program by an Executive Order issued by Governor Matt Blunt in February. The transfer allows federal Crime Victims' Compensation funding to be used to reimburse hospitals and providers for the exams.

Other successes from the 2008 legislative session include:

- ▶ Domestic violence funding was maintained in the state budget with \$4.75 million in state funds and \$1.687 in federal funds.
- ▶ In the last moments of the legislative session, a bill strengthening the state's stalking and harassment laws passed. A significant provision in Senate Bill 818 clarifies that threatening electronic communications are included in the behaviors that constitute harassment.

REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAYS

MCADSV conducted its third annual Regional Legislative Advocacy Days with 34 advocates in attendance. These visits with Missouri legislators at the Capitol provide advocates with an opportunity to speak directly with state lawmakers about the needs of their programs and communities, and are critical to the success of the Coalition's public policy advocacy. In addition, seven representatives from member programs participated with Coalition staff in the National Network to End Domestic Violence's Lobby Days in Washington, D.C.



HELPING SURVIVORS FEEL WELCOME

The advocate community understands the role of power and control in domestic violence. Advocates have heard the stories of women who have been battered, raped and emotionally and verbally abused; who have had no control of their finances; who have been locked out of—or sometimes locked in—their own homes; and who have had their parenting undermined and their children used against them. And, yet, sometimes program rules, guidelines, policies and procedures can unintentionally create another layer of power and control over a woman seeking help. Many advocates recognize the dilemmas of maintaining the least-chaotic atmosphere for a program without being an extension of the abuser or other systems a victim must work within.

In 2008, MCADSV continued its **Shelter Rules Project**, an innovative and intensive technical assistance program examining different approaches for how residential programs can implement varied approaches to enhance communal living and reduce “rules” within shelter programs. In 2008, seven additional programs joined this innovative project: COMTREA, Harbor House, House of Hope, Kathy J. Weinman Shelter, The Lighthouse, SEMO Family Violence Council and Synergy Services. These programs spent a year examining their current rules and the philosophy behind them with the common goal of ensuring the best-possible and least-invasive services to survivors of domestic violence and to work toward a truly woman-defined program structure.

ENHANCING COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSES

MCADSV continued its participation in a two-year, statewide multi-disciplinary effort to improve the criminal justice system’s coordinated community response to handling domestic violence cases and violation of protection orders by promoting arrest policies in domestic violence cases through enhanced information technology, technical assistance and training. Partner-agencies include the Supreme Court of Missouri-Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA), Department of Public Safety-Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP), Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS) and the Department of Corrections-Missouri Board of Probation and Parole.

MCADSV collaborated with these partner-agencies to provide discipline-specific training in 2007. In 2008, MCADSV coordinated **five multidisciplinary regional workshops, training a total of 699** batterers intervention program staff, prosecutors, judges, court personnel, victim advocates, law enforcement and corrections personnel.



MCADSV Staff

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Emily van Schenkhof
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Lisa Weingarth
Development Director

Laura Zahnd
Program Development Specialist

*"Your gift arrived
on my six-month
anniversary of being
released from prison.
Each and every day of
life is sacred to me and
I thank God
for the freedom I
experience. Life is so
wonderful and I
treasure each moment
and each experience."*

— Clemency Project donation recipient

ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR ALL SURVIVORS

MCADSV believes in meaningful outreach and advocacy for immigrant, refugee and Limited English Proficient survivors.

In 2008, MCADSV launched its **Language Access Project**, an intensive technical assistance program examining different approaches for how programs can ensure non-English speaking survivors can access culturally competent services. Programs involved in the project include The Shelter, MOCSA, YWCA Shelter in St. Joseph, ACCIS, Polk County House of Hope and St. Martha's Hall.

MCADSV held a day-long statewide training *Program Accessibility: Survivors with Limited English Proficiency* in addition to six regional, on-site and community-based trainings on topics related specifically to comprehensive service provision to immigrant, refugee or Limited English Proficient survivors. MCADSV also released an issue of *The Basics*, the Coalition's technical assistance publication, titled *Working Toward Cultural Competency*.

BATTERED WOMEN'S CLEMENCY PROJECT

Through a donation to the Coalition, **seven formerly incarcerated women were each provided with \$1,000** to use for their transition needs after they were released from prison. Each recipient was in the original group of 11 formerly battered women for whom clemency was sought through the Missouri Battered Women's Clemency Coalition, of which MCADSV is a founding member. MCADSV will provide transition funds to the two women who remain incarcerated upon their release.

The Women's Initiative for Health and Safety, a giving circle of women from St. Louis, provided MCADSV with a \$10,000 donation to be used specifically to assist with the post-incarceration transition needs of those who have been aided through the clemency project. There are no restrictions on how the money can be used by each woman.

The majority of the women represented through the Clemency Project, all of whom were victims of domestic violence, were not allowed to introduce evidence of the violence against them by their abusers in their trials and were convicted of capital crimes committed against their abusers. Several were convicted on conspiracy charges for murders committed by others. The Coalition has advocated for their release since 2000.



2008 MCADSV Board of Directors

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RACS

Melissa Dann
St. Martha's Hall

Judy Edmonson
AVENUES

Erin Ercoline
ALIVE

Sharon Giles
RSVP - University of
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A Safe Place/COMTREA

Barb Tenholder
A Safe Place/COMTREA

Debbie Wallace
The Lighthouse Shelter

MCADSV Donors

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Individuals and Organizations

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Denise Cross
Erin Ercoline
Irma Jenkins
Kim LeBaron
Sherry Levin
Jenee Lowe
Joan Pierce
Missouri Women of Today
Sharon Meusch
Julie Murray
Beth Savitzky
Sr. Rita Schonhoff
Winnis Sifford
Mark and Debra Weingarth
Women's Initiative for Health and Safety
Edward and Jeanne Zagorac

Memorial and Honoring Gifts

Colleen Coble –
in memory of Fred O. Coble
Cheryl Robb-Welch –
in memory of George Robb I

Corporate and Foundation Support

Allstate Insurance
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American Bankers Insurance Company
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Midwest Sign and Screen Printing
Supply Co.
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State Farm Insurance

Government Funding

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Missouri Department of Social Services
Missouri Office of State Courts
Administrators
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Human Services
U.S. Department of Justice

*Thank you to those
who make our work
possible!*

2008 FINANCIAL REPORT

2008 Support and Revenue

Federal funding..... 581,927.54
State funding 539,288.22
Contributions 326,573.00
Other 137,738.52

Total

Revenue 1,585,527.28

2008 Operating Expenses

Staff salaries and
benefits 826,210.35
Contract trainers and
services 65,057.95
Information
technology 52,997.06
Training 122,617.95
Travel 77,258.31
Operations 160,257.04
Facilities 58,757.25

Total

Expenses 1,363,155.91



**MISSOURI COALITION AGAINST
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