

November 2002

Happy Thanksgiving!...to you all...and we give thanks to all our advocates for their dedication and generosity to the program and for your work with survivors of domestic and sexual violence throughout the year.

Our Annual Rape Crisis Advocate training started on October 24th and will end on November 16th. We're all caught up in the excitement (and work!) of training, which came right on the heels of our 25th Anniversary Benefit celebration (see below for more information)! We haven't even started planning our holiday party... or awards ceremony... or other surprising and awesome developments we'll tell you about next month ... pretty intriguing, huh? Anyway, it's all great stuff and even though we're exhausted, we're loving all of it and are really excited about the new group of advocates.

25th ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT CELEBRATION

The benefit was a resounding success- we raised close to \$75,000 for the Program bringing in over \$135,000.! Equally important however, is that it was a beautiful and memorable evening. The original "Co-Founders" of the Program, Linda Fairstein, former ADA and Sex Crimes Chief and Susan were honored by the 400 people in attendance. Thank you, thank you, thank you- to the Benefit Committee and to all the advocates who helped with the event!

DRUG FACILITATED RAPE KITS

New kits are now in the ED's at St. Luke'-Roosevelt and Beth Israel, which are designated sites to pilot this new program. These kits are used to collect urine and blood specimens in cases where there is a suspicion that a sexual assault survivor may have been drugged. Please note that the lab forms (National Medical Services) attached to the kits DO NOT get filled out. The kits must be turned over to law enforcement for processing by the Medical Examiners Office only. **This means that the assault must be reported to the police in order for the kit to be analyzed.**

The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault will be holding a free, one-day seminar on Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault on December 6th, 2002 at a location in Manhattan, so save the date! All Advocates and SAFE's will be sent a flyer when the exact times and location have been determined.

DVA NEWS

Because of funding limitations, we will no longer be able to provide DVA stipends as of January 1st, 2003. However, our funding allows us to continue to reimburse for cab fares and all out-of-pocket monies laid out to/for survivors. We are saddened by this development but If you have not submitted monthly service reports, please do so as soon as possible so that 2002 payments can be processed before the end of the year.

STAFF NEWS

Welcome to our graduate student interns, who will be with us this academic year- **Kerry Stout**, from Fordham University School of Social Work and **Linda Taggart**, from Columbia University. They have been great and are part of the family already.

It is with enormous regret that we inform you of the death of Susan Xenarios's husband, Giorgos. He died peacefully in their home in Mykonos, Greece in August. We send condolences to Susan and to her daughter, Elena.

ADVOCATE NEWS

Rape Crisis Advocate, **Dawn Volkart**, will now be doing crisis work on a full-time basis and will no longer be able to be an advocate. We'll miss you, Dawn and we hope that in the future, you will be able to return to the Program. DV Advocate, **Liz Pender** has moved to Sierra Leone!!! Thanks for all you have done for survivors of domestic violence. You will also be missed. Congratulations to **Kathleen Bishop**, who is the director for "Wild Dust", a play about eight women in the Wild West!!! The play ran at the Center Stage NY on West 21st Street from 10/17 to 11/3. We heard it was mah...velously funny and smart. Bravo Kathleen. We have so many advocates, who are incredibly talented in their "other" lives. If any of you are playing a gig, acting in a play, doing a talk or have a role on a TV spot or movie or... are involved in something which you want us to know....and want our support....please let us know in advance so we can either put it in the newsletter or send out a notice to everyone.

Thought for the Month

"When a person
plants a tree
under which he will
never sit, you know
civilization has come to that land."

Greek Proverb

We Wish You a Happy Thanksgiving.