

The Advocate

Renewal House, Fall 2017

This year, we celebrate 35 years of serving St. Lawrence County.

From the archives...

Violence in Home 'Touches Elderly, Children', Watertown Daily Times, **October 23, 1981**, by James R. Donnelly

Canton—Supporters of the drive to fill the gap left by the closing of the North Country Women's Shelter have staged a county-wide "awareness week" in recent days.

Calling themselves "St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House," the task force, sponsored by the Presbytery of Northern New York has been making the rounds of area organizations, newspapers and radio stations in an effort to draw attention to their project.

"The goal of Renewal House," Mary Logan of Canton's Church and Community Worker Program explained, "is to establish a centrally located, walk-in crisis center staffed to support individuals facing a violent situation."

In the past, Mrs. Logan noted, the battered wife has been the focus of most attention, and the former women's shelter provided housing for over 100 women in 1979, its last year of operation.

But, she said, "Children and the elderly are also targets of violence" and are provided for in the task force's plans.

We want to emphasize," she said, "that we are not just interested in women."

Plans, she continued, are currently aimed at drawing together a volunteer board of directors by Nov. 19 so that Renewal House can begin its work by January.

A nominating committee, she said, is working to find volunteers from throughout the county to serve on the board. Hopefully, she said, the board's ranks will include victims, members of the clergy and others interested in the group's aims.

Anyone interested in serving on the board or receiving more information about it may call 386-3534 or write to the St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House, P.O. Box 468, Canton.

Once the board of directors is operational, Mrs. Logan said, one of its first projects will be to organize a "safe home network of volunteers who will provide shelter for people who choose to remove themselves from an unsafe environment."

Once out of danger, Mrs. Logan said, people seeking help from Renewal House will be guided to those social agencies which can best meet their long-term needs.

Renewal House Wins \$35,000 Grant From State, Watertown Daily Times, **June 9, 1984**, By Steven Billmyer

Potsdam—Family violence is not just a problem of the poor or uneducated, but can be found in the homes of the most upstanding, respected citizens nationwide or in St. Lawrence County, according to one local expert.

"These guys aren't monsters," Linda McCarty, coordinator of St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House for Victims of Family Violence, said last week. "They're our friends and neighbors who need our help."

Renewal House arranges housing and assistance for the victims of domestic violence. The program also tries to counsel the

husbands. This summer the program will receive a one-year, \$35,000 grant from the state Department of Social Services to help pay operating costs, Mrs. McCarty said.

In its first 16 months, Renewal House has helped 106 clients with more than 170 children, Mrs. McCarty said. The program has housed about 29 women and 43 children.

Safe Homes

Lacking a shelter, Renewal House places women and children in 27 secret "safe homes" spread throughout the county. Owners volunteer to house and feed the victims of family violence for up to 72 hours, she said.

The average stay in a "safe home" is five days, which technically means moving from one location to another after 72 hours. However, many "safe home" operators allow the families to stay longer, she said.

"This is strictly voluntary, with little or no reimbursements," Mrs. McCarty said. The program will pick up extraordinary expenses such as diapers, tooth-brushes or other essential items.

Renewal House has found alternative housing for about 17 women with 57 children because the homes could not house everyone, she explained.

These families needed to stay longer than 72 hours or involved so many children that a "safe home" could not house everyone, she explained.

(continued on page 6)

Go Purple: Shine the Light on Domestic Violence!

"Shine the Light on Domestic Violence" is a campaign that connects communities across New York by turning the State purple during October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This is the tenth year of the campaign and it has grown every year! From skyscrapers to bridges and storefronts to shopping centers, purple lights illuminate the nights of October.

This year, the national **Wear Purple Day is October 19th**. You can wear purple any day during the month, or all month long! Please tell people why ending domestic violence is important to you. You could even turn it into a fundraiser for Renewal House. Please join us in any way you can. Tell us (Renewal House) what you're doing by posting on our Facebook page or send us an

email at renewalhouse@verizon.net. You could be helping to save a life. Don't fail to act!

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month in New York State and across the nation.

Renewal House will have an information table during the month of October located at the Department of Social Services and the County Court House lobby.

Annual Dinner—October 11th, with Silent Auction

We invite the community to join us on **Wednesday, October 11th** at the Gran-View Restaurant in Ogdensburg for our annual recognition dinner.

Cocktails will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

Our program, **Celebrating 35 Years**, will immediately follow.

The cost is \$50 per plate and the entree choices are:

Prime Rib

Roasted Stuffed Boneless Breast of Chicken

Broiled Seafood Platter (shrimp, sea scallops and haddock)

Vegetarian (grilled confit portabella mushroom or a pasta dish)

Please let us know your dinner choice when you reserve your seat.

Guest speaker and honoree is: **Lynda Clements**.

It was over 35 years ago when Lynda Clements realized that the closing of the women's shelter in Canton would put St. Lawrence County women and children at risk, should there be no place to go to flee domestic violence. With the abrupt closing of the shelter, Lynda quickly mobilized others in her North Country community to begin the process of establishing a task force and soon a network of safe homes for victims. It is because of her foresight and dedication to the well being of those in her community that we have successfully established what is now a stable, safe space for all those needing supportive housing and services when they can no longer be safe in their own homes.

Please RSVP by October 5th.

If you are interested in **reserving a table of 8**, please call Ilene at 315-379-9845.

A **silent auction** will be taking place throughout the evening.

Also on display will be The Purple Purse designed by Serena Williams. This is a limited edition, solely for the 2017 Purple Purse Challenge, which will be available for auction. All proceeds from this item will be donated directly to the Renewal House Purple Purse Campaign, helping to empower victims of financial abuse.

If you would like to donate an item or items for the **silent auction**, please call Ilene or Shari.

All money collected will go directly to assisting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in St. Lawrence County.

2017 Fashion Show

Join us for a fun night of Fashion with the young and young at heart sharing this year's colors and styles on October 26th from 6—8pm at the University Inn, Canton.

There will be many vendors showcasing their awesome products, a Chinese Auction and a 50/50 raffle.

Advance tickets are \$5 and \$7 at the door. Contact Crystal at

315-726-4190 or Lisa at 315-848-3108 for advance tickets.

This event is sponsored by Wendy's of Watertown/Massena.

Proceeds to benefit Renewal House.

Adopt a Family during the Holiday Season—call Renewal House for details!

The Purple Purse Campaign

This October, the Allstate Foundation Purple Purse Challenge will give nonprofits the chance to raise significant funds to provide life-changing services for domestic violence survivors. Renewal House submitted an application and was selected to be a part of the 2017 Purple Purse Campaign.

Why Purple Purse?

The Allstate Foundation Purple Purse is aimed at creating long-term safety and security for survivors through financial empowerment. They have helped to make the invisible visible. Since 2005, Allstate Foundation Purple Purse has been working to bring financial abuse out of the shadows so victims can get the healing and support they deserve. The program ignites fundraising for hundreds of national, state and local domestic violence organizations. Funds raised will support life-changing financial empowerment services to help domestic violence survivors build safer lives for themselves and their families. Using their prolific knowledge of financial services and deep community reach, the Allstate Foundation has propelled more than 1 million victims on the path to safety and security. They have invested more than \$55 million to empower women to

break free from violence.

Domestic violence and financial abuse do not discriminate. They affect people of all races, gender, religions and income levels—including individuals in our own community. It is likely someone you know is affected. Don't let them become a silent statistic.

Domestic violence affects one in four women in their lifetime—that's more women than are affected by breast cancer, ovarian cancer and lung cancer combined. Most people think only of physical abuse when they consider domestic violence, yet financial abuse happens in 99% of all domestic violence cases. The number one reason domestic violence survivors stay or return to an abusive relationship is that they don't have the financial resources to break free. Physical abuse leaves bruises and scars. Financial abuse is an **Invisible Weapon** that traps victims in abusive relationships.

Financial abuse prevents victims from acquiring, using or maintaining financial resources. Financial abuse is just as effective in controlling a victim as is a lock and key. Abusers employ isolating tactics such as preventing their spouse or partner from working or accessing a bank, credit card or transportation. They may closely monitor or

restrict their partner's spending. Victims of financial abuse live a controlled life in which they have been purposely put in a position of dependence, making it hard for the victim to break free. In 99% of all domestic violence cases, financial abuse helps keep victims trapped in the abusive relationship.

The **2017 Purple Purse Campaign** is an online fundraiser throughout the whole month of October. Help Renewal House reach our goal of \$10,000 to support victims and survivors of financial abuse. Be sure to check out our Facebook page for updates and donation incentives.

If you would like to donate, please go to <https://www.crowdrise.com/st-lawrence-valley-renewal-house-for-victims-of-family-violence-purplepurse2017>, and click donate or scan the QR code below with your smartphone.



For more information, please contact Kat Manierre, counselor/advocate at 315-379-9845.

Wish List

Personal care items—shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, and deodorant

General supplies—cleaning products, laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, light bulbs, batteries, trash bags, etc.

Bath and Kitchen towels, bedding (twin), pillows and crib bedding

Kitchen items

Non-perishable foods for pantry

Adult and children's underwear (new), socks, sweatshirts,

sweatpants, pj's, etc.

Winter items such as hats, mittens, and boots

Gift certificates or gift cards for phone, gas, grocery stores, etc.

Disposable diapers and wipes

Services Offered at Renewal House

Renewal House provides a variety of services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in St. Lawrence County.

All services are free and confidential. Services include:

24-hour Crisis Hotline: Staff and volunteers are available 24 hours a day by calling **315-379-9845**.

Regular office hours are 8 am - 5 pm, Monday through Friday. If it is not an emergency and you would like **to leave a message**, call **315-379-9878**. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Individual Counseling/Emotional Support: Short-term individual counseling in a non-judgmental atmosphere that acknowledges a person's ability and right to make choices. Help is available to consider options and plan for safety. Home visits are provided if needed.

Support Group: A facilitated self-help group for victims and survivors of domestic violence providing mutual support and understanding from others who have been abused and who share something in common. It has helped many victims feel less isolated, get useful information,

and develop a safety plan. Transportation is provided if needed.

Children's Program: Recreational/Support group to help children understand what abuse is and to give them a safe space to talk about their feelings. Children are reassured that the abuse is not their fault. Individual counseling is also provided.

Safe Housing: 24-hour intake for emergency, temporary shelter for domestic violence victims.

Advocacy: Assistance in obtaining orders of protection, pressing criminal charges, and working with law enforcement. We also help in obtaining emergency assistance from Department of Social Services, Office of Victim Services and other community programs.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners: Specially trained medical professionals providing compassionate, knowledgeable assistance to a victim of sexual assault.

Community Education and Outreach: Presentations are available for any public or private group, school, business, or agency.

Campus Advocacy

Our Campus Advocate provides direct service, trainings, and presentations for all colleges in St. Lawrence County. We are currently at four colleges that are generously sharing their space with us:

Clarkson University, Tuesdays, 8:30—4:30pm, Education Resource Center (ERC),

Student Health and Counseling Center (SHAC), Suite 1300

SUNY Potsdam, Wednesdays, 9—5pm, Van Housen Ext, Room 390

SUNY Canton, Thursdays, 9—5pm, Payson Hall, Room 207

St. Lawrence University, Fridays, 9—5pm, Bewkes Science Hall, Room 323

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Although we do not have a dedicated space, we are currently providing training to all students, staff and faculty. All services are available upon request.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Donor Appreciation Report

Thank you for your support!

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Renewal House recognizes the businesses, organizations, and community members who generously support the adults and children who seek services at Renewal House by donating money, items, or time. The names listed on this report are from donations received since our last newsletter.

Most Return Home

Renewal House turns to shelters outside the county, boarding houses and relatives' homes to provide shelter for people turned away by the regular program. In some instances, the program will split up a family among a number of "safe homes," but that is "very, very difficult on the children and mother running from violence," Mrs. McCarty said.

In a majority of the cases, the mothers decide to remain at home and attempt to work out the problems with their husbands, Mrs. McCarty said. This is most common when the violence is sporadic or the man has agreed to undergo counseling.

"Just having the option of leaving can help the marriage," Mrs. McCarty said. The husband knows his wife can leave anytime, and that can be enough to force the couple to work out the problems, she said.

Mediation and learning communication skills are especially important for the families that decide to stay together, Mrs. McCarty said. The program uses about 50 volunteers to help the women and children cope with family violence.

Emotional Support

The volunteers also act as advocates for the women to help the victims find the services available in this county. "Many of the women don't know anything about getting help," Mrs. McCarty said.

Husbands also can be victims of domestic violence, but that is much less common, Mrs. McCarty said. Nationally, about 5 percent of all family violence victims are men, but no men have asked for help in St. Lawrence County, she said. When men become victims it is usually easier for them to leave the home, she added.

The women who decide to leave often need emergency public assistance for food, shelter and clothing. Volunteers can provide child care and transportation, arrange legal advice, help get emergency public assistance and, most important, provide emotional support, she explained. Renewal House also puts together programs to help the children deal with the crisis.

'Skin of Our Teeth'

The state grant will help stabilize funding for the program that has "been getting by by the skin of our teeth," Mrs. McCarty said. Renewal House has survived on contributions from individuals and churches, she added.

"People in this county have responded very well," Mrs. McCarty said. In addition to donations, a number of landlords voluntarily reduced rents for women and children needing long-term housing, she said.

The \$35,000 grant will be used for operating expenses such as personnel, phone service and other general costs. In the second year, the program will have to come up with \$17,500 to match state funding of the same amount. In the third year, the program would be on its own.

Renewal House will probably turn to the county for at least part of the matching funds, Mrs. McCarty told the county legislature's health committee last week. In reviewing the program, she stressed that Renewal House has not asked the county for money since it started in March 1983. "I wanted to demonstrate that we could do the job first," she said.

Shelter Planned

"Long term, we're going to have a shelter," Mrs. McCarty said. However, a reliable stream of financing must be established before

starting a shelter, she said. "I want at least three years in the bank."

The program could get state funding to purchase and renovate a building for a shelter, but the operating costs still must be covered, Mrs. McCarty said. It would cost between \$80,000 and \$150,000 annually to operate a shelter in St. Lawrence County, she said, an estimate based on budgets for shelters in similar rural counties.

A shelter does pose a security risk because many husbands will come looking for their wives, but the advantages of a shelter far outweigh the disadvantages, Mrs. McCarty said.

"These young women often think it's their fault," Mrs. McCarty said. "Some of them have given up at the ripe old age of 22 years old."

They're Not Alone

In a shelter, the women and children can provide each other with emotional support. "They know that they are not alone," Mrs. McCarty said. "The need is here. It's known. It's been demonstrated," she told the legislators.

County Legislator Jean C. LePage, D-Massena, spoke strongly for the program, emphasizing that family violence is a vicious cycle. Children grow up and repeat their fathers' actions, he said.

The health committee unanimously passed a resolution in support of Renewal House. The committee also plans a joint meeting with the social services committee to discuss funding for the family violence program next year.

Violence Awareness Week Set, Watertown Daily Times, September 25, 1985

Domestic Violence Awareness Week will be observed by

St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House the week of October 6—13.

The Renewal House for Victims of Family Violence was founded in 1981 by a group of interested individuals in St. Lawrence County who were concerned by the lack of services for victims of family violence after a loss of funding and county support led to the closing of a women's shelter.

An awareness week was held in the fall of 1981, and program development began. In April 1982, a community workshop was conducted, led by the New York State Coalition on Domestic Violence. Renewal House became incorporated in May and a coordinator was hired that summer to develop a training and education workshop, and funding resources.

In the first year and a half, from March 1983 to October 1984, the facility served 108 women with 195 children, and 12 men. Volunteer safe homes were provided to 36 women and 58 children.

Since October 1984, 17 women and 36 children have been provided safe homes. The agency has made more than 100 visits with women to court or Social Services, has provided counseling to more than 60 women and made 100 home visits. In the major activity of community education, 24 talks have been given to over 700 individuals.

Renewal House provides emergency safe homes for women and their children who are in immediate danger and provides support to women by obtaining orders of protection and other legal help. Counseling is provided to every client and referrals are made to mental health, alcoholic services, Catholic Charities and others, while emotional support and help in relocation, as well as

transportation, child care and emergency food is provided as needed.

A support group for women who have been battered meets every Tuesday at 7pm and a batterers group for male abusers began meeting in July 1985, with another group started in September.

Wife Abusers Must Alter Feelings on Women, Watertown Daily Times, **November 23, 1985**, by David Pierce

Canton—The key to reforming men who abuse their wives is to change their attitudes about women, according to the man who runs Renewal House's counseling program for batterers.

"If you think it's okay to hit your wife, its hard to get you to stop," said Dennis A. Willard, who also serves as warden of the St. Lawrence County Jail.

The majority of referrals to the counseling program are made through the wives and girlfriends of batterers who contact Renewal House, Mr. Willard said. Other men are referred by Family Court or the probation department.

The men in the groups are required to go through 12 weekly sessions. Mr. Willard said each session is "quite structured." The men are encouraged to express their feelings and role-playing is used extensively.

"We re-do some of the arguments and fights they had and see how the situation could have been avoided," said Mr. Willard.

He said most of the participants identify with strong, silent "macho" role models. "We talk about who the role models are as you grow up. How you learn to be men."

He said one of his most challenging tasks is getting the participants to express their feelings.

"When you run out of words you start hitting," Mr. Willard said of the typical batterer. "One of the problems with batterers is they don't show emotions. The only emotion they show is anger."

Mr. Willard said during the first session with each group he tries to teach them "time out." Under this process, when the men begin to get angry they are encouraged to smoke a cigarette, take a walk or other wise step back from the situation before violence occurs.

He said most abusers were raised in violent families. "It's something they learned and it's something they need to unlearn," said Mr. Willard. "While they may have learned to be that way as a child, they don't want their children to learn to be that way."

Renewal House Sponsors Dinner, Watertown Daily Times, **September 28, 1987**

Canton—For the second consecutive year, St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House for Victims of Family Violence is sponsoring a dinner to recognize women of St. Lawrence County who have contributed to the well-being of the citizens of the county and continue to help other women.

This year, Renewal House recognizes Karen Easter, director of the county's crisis line, Reachout, for the past eight years, and County Legislator Betty H. Bradley, R-Potsdam, for 12 years.

The Renewal House will also give special recognition to the many volunteers who give their time and energy.

The recognition dinner coincides

with the National Day of Unity around which is focused Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The dinner will be held at 6:15 pm Oct. 5 in the Presbyterian Church in Canton. Tickets are \$10 per person, a donation to Renewal House. For tickets call 379-9845.

Domestic Violence - An Introduction

Taken, *in part*, from the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence website 2005

Understanding why domestic violence occurs is critical if we are to succeed at the enormous challenge of ending it. Domestic violence is rooted in a long history of oppression.

Social values and beliefs have long supported the notions that women and children are the property of men, that men have the right to control their wives and children, that men have the right to have sex with their wives, and that husbands can give their wives "correction" as necessary to maintain family order and their own authority.

This belief system prevailed in other arenas, such as religion. In marriage, a father "gave away" his daughter to the groom, representing the transfer of property from one male to another. Rape was not a crime against the female victim but a crime against the father or husband. (This is still true today in other parts of the world, where women who are raped are subsequently murdered in "honor killings" because they have brought dishonor to the family.)

About 150 years ago, people began to move toward finding violence against women unacceptable. By the 1880s,

many states in the United States had laws restricting rights of men to "chastise" wives and children, but usually either the laws were not enforced or those in violation of the law were not punished. In 1920, the 19th Amendment was adopted, giving women the right to vote. Interestingly, the suffrage and prohibition movements occurred simultaneously, as temperance leaders believed the organized suffragists could help them achieve their goals and women reformers thought alcohol was a causal factor in wife beating and child abuse, which it is not.

In the 1960s, child abuse began to be addressed as a major social issue, through programming, legislation and policy initiatives. The abuse of women by their partners (husbands or otherwise) however, remained in the shadows. The attitude prevailed that women somehow brought the abuse on themselves and, unlike abused children, women were thought to be responsible for the violence perpetrated against them.

In the early 1970s, women began to create a grassroots, informal network of services, safe homes and local domestic violence hotlines, to provide support to the growing number of women being battered who were calling rape crisis hotlines seeking help and safety. As the magnitude of the problem became clear, a range of services, including a network of shelters, was developed to begin to address the safety needs of victims of domestic violence. In its initial stages, these were almost entirely volunteer efforts, with little or no stable funding. Even though we have seen enormous progress, there is still much more to be done.

Timeline

- 1962: In New York, domestic violence cases are transferred from Criminal Court to Family Court where only civil procedures apply. The husband never faces the harsher penalties he would suffer if found guilty in Criminal Court for assaulting a stranger.
- 1966: Beating, as cruel and inhumane treatment, becomes grounds for divorce in New York, but the plaintiff must establish that a "sufficient" number of beatings have taken place.
- 1970's: Women were coming together with African Americans seeking their equal rights. As a result, women started talking about violence against women in the forms of spouse abuse and sexual assault. Women recognized three major contributors to the violence against them: economic disparity, traditional gender role expectations, and a criminal justice system that did not hold men accountable for violence against women. From this, the battered women's movement was born.
- 1970's: Throughout many cities across the U.S., married battered women who leave their husbands are denied welfare due to their husbands' income.
- 1970's: "We will not be beaten" becomes the mantra of women across the country organizing to end domestic violence. A grassroots organizing effort begins, transforming public consciousness and women's lives.
- 1972: In June, the first emergency rape crisis line opens in Washington, D.C.
- 1973: From 1968 to 1973, the crime of rape increased 62% nationwide.
- 1974: As a result of women's groups' efforts, New York no longer requires a rape victim to give independent corroboration

of the crime.

- 1975: Most U.S. states allow wives to bring criminal action against a husband who inflicts injury upon her.
- 1976: The first hotline for battered women is started by Women's Advocates in St. Paul, Minnesota.
- 1976: The first domestic violence shelter opened in New York City.
- 1977: State funding was provided for shelters and victims of domestic violence. A law was passed allowing married victims of domestic violence to file criminal charges against a spouse.
- 1977: Reachout of St. Lawrence County, Inc. was established and began providing crisis intervention and information & referrals through their hotline phone service.
- 1977: Oregon becomes the first state to enact mandatory arrest in domestic violence cases.
- 1978: The New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV) was established.
- **1978: The North Country Women's Shelter opens on 3 Chapel Street in Canton - created from the feminist women's movement in the North Country called North Country Women.**
- 1979: The NYS Governor's Task Force on Domestic Violence was created.
- 1981: The NYS Domestic Violence Hotline was established.
- **1981: Due to the lack of funds, the North Country Women's Center, Inc. announces that the Women's Shelter, 3 Chapel Street, Canton, will officially close on February 15th.**

- 1981: President Ronald Reagan proclaims the first "National Victims' Rights Week" in April.
- 1982: The phrase "battered women's movement" has come to symbolize the activists and organizations serving battered women and their children.
- **1982: St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House for Victims of Family Violence, Inc. (Renewal House) becomes incorporated in May.**
- 1982: Citizens Against Violent Acts (CAVA), St. Lawrence County's Rape Crisis Center, became incorporated.
- **1983: Renewal House begins providing services in April based out of the Canton United Methodist Church, 41 Court Street.**
- 1983: Over 700 shelters are in operation nationwide serving 91,000 women and 131,000 children per year.
- 1983: The NY Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence was created by Executive Order, replacing the Task Force.
- 1983: CAVA begins providing services in October throughout St. Lawrence County.
- 1984: The passage of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) establishes the Crime Victims Fund, made up of federal criminal fines, penalties, and bond forfeitures, to support state victim compensation and local victim service programs.
- 1984: *People v. Liberta*: New York's highest court made marital rape a crime, striking down the "marital rape exemption" on the grounds that it denied equal protection of the laws to married women.
- 1985: The NYS Spanish Domestic Violence Hotline was established, the first in the nation.

- 1987: The Domestic Violence Prevention Act permanently funded emergency shelters for victims through local Departments of Social Services.
- 1987: The New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA) was established.
- **1987: Renewal House opens 6-bed safe apartment providing shelter to victims for up to 30 days (extension to 90, if necessary)**
- 1987: October is officially designated as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month to honor battered women and those who serve them.
- 1988: *State v. Ciskie* is the first case to allow the use of expert testimony to explain the behavior and mental state of an adult rape victim. The testimony is used to show why a victim of repeated physical and sexual assaults by her intimate partner would not immediately call the police or take action. The jury convicts the defendant on four counts of rape.
- **1989: Renewal House opens a second safe apartment. Licensing occurred during the year as New York State initiated new regulations for residential programs and a certification process for domestic violence programs. Renewal House became certified as a safe home network provider and a safe-dwelling.**
- 1990: Forty-eight states have enacted or revamped injunctions that enable courts to restrain men from abusing, harassing and assaulting the women with whom they live. Emergency protection orders outside of normal court hours can be obtained in 23 states.
- **Early 1990's: Renewal House moves to 39 Main Street, Canton.**

- 1991: National studies show that 1 out of 7 wives report being raped by their husband; two-thirds of the rapes occurred more than once.
- 1992: The NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) was created by statute, replacing the Commission. New York became the only state with an executive level state agency dedicated to addressing the issue of domestic violence.
- 1992: The American Medical Association releases guidelines suggesting that doctors screen women for signs of domestic violence.
- 1992: NYS has mandated that the local Department of Social Services pay a per diem for residential services.
- 1992: The U.S. Surgeon General ranks abuse by husbands to be the leading cause of injuries to women aged 15 to 44.
- 1994: The Family Protection and Domestic Violence Intervention Act brought about the development of the Order of Protection Registry; Domestic Incident Reporting System; Victims' Rights Notification; mandatory arrest; training for judges, law enforcement personnel, and district attorneys; and the addition or revision of several crimes under the NYS Penal Law.
- 1994: The Federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) created the first legislation acknowledging domestic violence and sexual assault as crimes and provided federal resources to encourage coordinated community responses to domestic violence.
- 1994: New York follows Florida in recognizing that rapists cannot claim that the victim's dress provoked their crime.

- 1995: Governor Pataki made prevention of domestic violence a priority, declaring a policy of "zero tolerance" for domestic violence in New York State.
- **1996: Renewal House received a grant from the New York State Homeless Housing Assistance Program to purchase a home in the county for residential services.**
- 1997: The Model Domestic Violence Policy for Counties in NY was introduced.
- 1998: The New York statewide public awareness campaign and school-based prevention projects were established.
- **1998: St. Lawrence County Domestic Violence Task Force was formed. A committee was formed to address the issue of the need for a batterers group in the county. The new program, "The Offender Account-ability Group", is managed by Catholic Charities in Ogdensburg.**
- 1999: A law making stalking a felony in New York State was passed.
- **1999: Renewal House moves to 3 Chapel Street, Canton, which was where the North Country Women's Shelter was located.**
- 2000: The Sexual Assault Reform Act (SARA) was passed, enacting sweeping changes in the state's rape, sexual assault and child sexual abuse laws.
- **2000: Renewal House provided safe housing to 83 adults and children.**
- 2002: A law requiring all current and new Child Protective Service workers to be trained on domestic violence issues was passed.
- 2005: VAWA was reauthorized.
- **2005: Renewal House purchased the office space at**

3 Chapel Street, Canton. An opportunity to provide a permanent site for community members.

A continuation of related laws in NYS since 2005 as well as local history ...

- 2006: Pets Covered in Orders of Protection - allows protection of companion animals to be added to an order of protection issued in a Criminal or Family Court.
- **2006: St. Lawrence County's Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Court began with four cases presented. Dedicated to the idea of "one family-one judge", IDV Courts are designed to allow a single judge to hear related cases involving domestic violence.**
- 2007: Child Advocacy Centers - directs the NYS Office of Children and Family Services to facilitate the establishment of Child Advocacy Centers to serve child victims of sexual assault and serious physical abuse. New programs and centers that already exist will be required to maintain a standard protocol to provide appropriate services and minimize trauma to the child and the family.
- 2008: Undocumented Alien Shelter Reimbursement - makes undocumented immigrant victims of domestic violence eligible for domestic violence services in New York State.
- 2008: Preventing Emergency Call - makes it a crime to prevent a person from communicating a request for emergency assistance by intentionally disabling or removing communication equipment, such as a telephone or teletypewriter device (TTY).
- 2008: Family Court Access - amends the criminal procedure law and the Family Court Act to allow more victims to seek an

order of protection in Family Court. The new law expands the definition of family/household member to include victims who are or have been in an intimate relationship, regardless of whether they have lived with the abuser or whether the relationship is of a sexual nature. This will include LGBT and dating relationships (including teens).

- **2009: Renewal House served 682 domestic violence victims.**
- 2009: Employment Discrimination - establishes victims of domestic violence as a protected class in the employment provisions of the NYS human rights law. The new law prevents an employer from firing or refusing to hire an individual based on their status as a victim of domestic violence and prevents discrimination in compensation or in the terms, conditions or privileges of employment.
- 2009: False Reporting of Child Abuse - expands the crime of falsely reporting an incident in the third degree, to include false reports of child abuse or maltreatment to a mandated report, as defined in Social Services Law §413. Prior to this change, the law only applied in cases where false reports were made directly to the NYS central register.
- 2009: NYS Colleges Address Domestic Violence/Stalking - requires NYS colleges to address domestic violence and stalking by providing incoming students with information on prevention, laws, penalties and the college's response to any incidents or offenses, including assistance for victims. The bill also requires a review of campus policies and procedures for educating the school community, including personnel, on reporting of incidents during investigations, referring complaints to proper

authorities and counseling victims.

- 2010: No-fault Divorce - allows a spouse to file for divorce on the grounds that the relationship has irretrievably broken down for at least six months.
- 2010: Unlisted Phone Number - requires participating phone companies and cable television companies who provide phone service in NYS to allow domestic violence victims who have a permanent order of protection to request an unlisted telephone number or a modified or alternative listing, free of charge, for the duration of the order.
- **2010: Renewal House begins offering services to sexual assault victims and managing the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program. Two additional advocates are hired.**
- 2010: Strangulation - creates a new Article 121 in the Penal Law, titled "Strangulation and Related Offenses," establishing the new crimes of criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation.
- 2011: Social Services Definition of Victim - amends the definition of "victim of domestic violence" to include the new category of "intimate partner".
- **2011: Renewal House served 943 victims (759 - domestic violence, 184 - sexual assault)**
- 2013: Extended Length of Shelter Stay - codifies in Social Services Law the ninety day limit on shelter stays that has been in regulation since 1987. Allows local districts to provide two forty-five day extensions beyond the ninety days for shelter residents who continue to be in need of emergency services and temporary shelter.
- 2013: New Phone Number - requires phone companies to provide a new phone number, if requested by a domestic violence

victim who has an order of protection—within 15 days of the request and at no charge to the victim. This applies to land lines, but not to cell phones.

- 2015: Campus Sexual Assault and Interpersonal Violence, "Enough is Enough" law - requires all colleges to adopt a set of comprehensive procedures and guidelines to combat sexual assault, intimate partner violence and stalking on college and university campuses statewide.
- **2015: Renewal House hires a Campus Advocate. Renewal House now has 11 staff members.**
- **2015: After Probation's long history of drafting family offense petitions for our county, Renewal House takes on this service in November.**
- **2016: Renewal House serves 1,036 victims (814 - domestic violence, 222 - sexual assault)**
- 2017: Mandatory Arrest/Extension - extends the mandatory arrest provision for family offenses for two more years, until September 1, 2019.
- **2017: Catholic Charities no longer manages the Offender Accountability Group. The group is now managed by Mental Health Counseling Services of NNY, PLLC.**
- **2017: Child Advocacy Centers are established in St. Lawrence and Lewis Counties, and overseen by the Victim Assistance Center's Child Advocacy Center in Watertown.**

Directors of Renewal House:

- Linda McCarty
- Carol Drew (10 years)
- Maria Groh
- Eva Turknett-Ramsay (interim)
- Kim Robinson Hissong (4 years)
- Lisl Kirkland
- Ellyn St. Hillaire
- Ilene Burke (16 years -)

Celebrating 35 Years

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Renewal House funding sources:

NYS Office of Victim Services

NYS Office of Children and Family Services

NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services

NYS Coalition Against Sexual Assault

NYS Department of Health

St. Lawrence County Department of
Social Services

Legislative Award - Senator Ritchie

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York

United Way of Northern New York

FEMA

Grassroots Fund

Stewarts Holiday Fund

Donations and Fundraising

Fall 2017 Newsletter

I have enclosed my tax-deductible donation in support of the programs
and services offered at RENEWAL HOUSE.

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I give permission for my name to be listed on the donor
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I do **NOT** want my donation to be recognized.

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Please make checks payable to RENEWAL HOUSE and mail to:

3 Chapel Street, Canton, NY 13617.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Visit our website at www.slvrenewalhouse.org to donate by Credit Card.