



FALL/WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER

LAURA'S MARCH REVIEW

- Radiant sunshine energized over 300 people of all ages who came to **Laura's March** on September 12, Laura's birthday, to hear the powerful messages of inspiring speakers, among them survivors as well as advocates. **To see pictures of Laura's March, please visit www.facebook.com/LKWFund**
- Believing more men must be involved in preventing sexual assault, we were especially heartened at the arrival of a busload of **St. Michael's College** lacrosse and ice hockey players. Overall, we had an abundance of young people at Laura's March, many of whom were from local college sororities and fraternities, like **Alpha Gamma Rho, Alpha Chi Omega, Delta Delta Delta, and Kappa Delta**.
- What **Joan Carson**, SANE Clinical Coordinator, had said regarding Laura's March 2014 remains a truth worth repeating "... in the midst of the world's violence, full of sadness, terror and evil, there are bright spots like this, glowing and growing with optimism, hope and resolve... the new energy of the younger generation that is coming up behind us to carry the voice of those who cannot speak."
- Keynote speaker **Karen Trongsard-Scott**, Exec. Director of VT Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, made an impassioned plea to believe victims. She spoke of "hardwired" biases, especially pertaining to gender stereotypes about women that obstruct reason and, therefore, the belief that they have been raped. Karen reminded us that the vast majority - 92-98% - of rape survivors are telling the truth, that we must suspend our disbelief and misconceptions and access **factual** information about rape and the traumas it causes. She urged, "We can all start by believing victims of sexual assault and then help them to know we believe them, that help is available and that they can heal and prevail."
- **Laura's Spirit Award** was given to Susan Shattuck Ide, LICSW, in recognition of her lifetime of providing support, advocacy, and mentorship to children and adult survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

LAURA'S ART STUDIO AT KING STREET CENTER

- **Laura's Art Studio** is a vibrant hub of artistic activity. King Street Center Development Director **Susannah Kerest** exclaims, "So many wonderful things are happening in Laura's Art room." Most recently, renowned Vermont muralist **Mary Lacy** worked with the children on a spectacular geometric painting project.
- Having now raised \$24,000, we are more than halfway toward our goal of \$40,000 pledged to King Street Center. We very much welcome and appreciate your support.

LKW FUND BOARD NEWS

The LKW Fund is happy to welcome its newest board member **Anne Mientka**, the outreach advocate at WomenSafe. Along with her mother, sisters, and their children, Anne has been a long-time supporter of and participant in Laura's March.

2015 DONATIONS UPDATE

- With portions of money raised at Laura's March, **H.O.P.E. Works** and **Champlain College** are busy implementing **Breakaway**, the soccer video game that teaches youth about gender equality and respect; the **Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program (SANE)** has sent 2 nurses to the annual Scientific Assembly to discuss research to improve patient care; and **Pride Center of Vermont** is offering legal clinic services to LGBTQ clients.
- The funds we raised also enabled us to participate in **Women Helping Battered Women's** Holiday Wish List program for children, provide ECHO memberships to 6 families(chosen by **KidSafe Collaborative**, **King Street Center**, and **Sara Holbrook Community Center**), and make donations to the following:
 - Art from the Heart (Burlington City Arts)
 - Children's Advocacy Center
 - Clarina Howard Nichols Center
 - Claus for Paws
 - HomeShare Vermont
 - Howard Center
 - Humane Society of Chittenden Cty.
 - Lund Center
 - SafeArt
 - Save Our Strays
 - Sexual Assault Crisis Team
 - The Safety Team
 - The Caroline Fund
 - Vermont Works for Women
 - Women Helping Battered Women
 - WomenSafe

A THOUGHT

I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples. – Mother Teresa

Whether on campuses, in the military, in social spheres, in workplaces, or even in our homes, sexual violence remains a scourge of crisis proportions. No one of any age or gender is immune. Because we are all invariably connected, the safety and well-being of one ultimately affects the safety and well-being of all. Whether it is by looking out for each other, not keeping silent, reporting incidents, believing victims, or helping survivors to get the support they need, each and every one of us must strive on the most basic of levels to create those ripples that can and will effect a tsunami of change.

The LKW Fund pledges to continue its advocacy in 2016. If you would like to make a donation to support our mission, you can mail a donation to LKW Fund, PO Box 65176, Burlington VT 05401, or visit www.firstgiving.com/lkwfund.

With abiding gratitude for your support, we wish you a season of peace and harmony that continue into 2016.