



FALL/WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

LAURA'S MARCH 2016 REPORT

Almost 500 people, a record-breaking number, gathered under blue skies and radiant sunshine for **Laura's March to End Sexual Violence** on September 10. Among participants were area college students, fraternities and sororities, 23 teams (another record-breaker), and numerous volunteers. The resounding success of Laura's March 2016 enabled us to contribute to **Pride Center's** initiative to provide outreach to LGBTQ community migrant workers and to contribute to **HOPE Works** expansion of support services. We value the opportunity to assist both of these leading organizations in their steadfast work to improve the lives of those they serve.

The Safety Team, our third beneficiary, assisted by college and high school student interns, initiated their *WISE* project (Women Inspiring Strength and Empowerment) at St. Mike's with a workshop for the women's basketball team on self-advocacy, risk-reduction, and verbal and physical strategies to defuse potentially threatening situations. With the objective of further expanding the program at St. Mike's, they will next hold similar workshops for other athletic teams, clubs, and residence teams. The Safety Team also plans to offer safety programs in southern Vermont, where no such programs currently exist. Executive Director Christine DiBlasio says "... a huge thank you [to the LKW Fund] for helping to make this possible. We look forward to watching the program blossom...."

A very special component of Laura's March 2016 was giving **Laura's Spirit Award** to **Sally Borden**, Executive Director of **KidSafe Collaborative**, for all she has done on behalf of child protection and well-being. Sally has received many awards acknowledging her vast and wide-spread contributions to this effort. The LKW Fund is honored to add its name to the list of those who have given Sally Borden the recognition she well deserves, especially in light of Laura herself having volunteered at KidSafe.

To see pictures of Laura's March, please visit the LKW Fund Facebook page.

LAURA'S ART STUDIO AT KING STREET CENTER

Laura's Art Studio is prospering and had an arts activity-rich 2016. Deena Murphy, Education Director at King Street Center, is now busy recruiting talented artists to offer more stimulating and fun programs to the children in 2017. Just \$8,000 shy of our pledge of \$40,000 to King Street Center, we very much appreciate your help to reach our goal.

END-OF-YEAR DONATIONS

The funds we raised also enabled us to participate in **Steps to End Domestic Violence Holiday Wish List** program for 2 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
- HomeShare Vermont
- Howard Center
- Humane Society of Chittenden Cty.
- Lund Center
- SafeArt
- Save Our Strays
- Sexual Assault Crisis Team
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program at UVM Med Center
- The Caroline Fund
- Vermont Works for Women
- WomenSafe

A THOUGHT...

I still arrive, in order to laugh and to cry, to fear and to hope. – Thich Nhat Hanh

Because every 2 minutes someone, including a child, is sexually assaulted in our nation, much work remains to be done to combat this epidemic. We have to work harder to enable victims to come forward assured that we will believe and help them, to support prevention education programs, and to hold perpetrators accountable and to prosecute them. For as long as sexual assault continues, **we must keep arriving**, showing up to do whatever we can and must do to make our society safer. Despite our diversity, we are all connected, sometimes just by virtue of being a human being alive at this moment in time. We are connected in that each one of us is vulnerable to deliberate or random violence. We are connected because we all laugh and cry and fear and hope, and it is with hope that we arrive because it fortifies us to persevere and to prevail in our efforts to end sexual violence.

If you would like 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 and a renewed pledge to keep arriving and to serve, we wish you a season of tranquility and hope.