



## SPRING/SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER



### LAURA'S MARCH 2016

**Laura's March to End Sexual Violence** will take place on September 10 at Oakledge Park. We will be raising funds for designated programs of **H.O.P.E. Works**, the sexual assault crisis and prevention center; **Pride Center of Vermont**, the educational and advocacy center for the LGBTQ community; and **The Safety Team**, an organization of 7 women martial artists working with interns from local colleges to empower women by teaching "effective communication, boundary setting, and practical physical and mental self-defense strategies."

*"To everything there is a season ....."*

September 10 will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Laura's March, and we feel it is an appropriate time to make this the final year for Laura's March. Since establishing the Fund in 2005, we have donated over \$160,000 to numerous Vermont organizations and charities. We hope to make this last March our biggest and best fundraiser to date so we can continue to make a significant impact on Vermont for years to come. We hope that you will help us make this last Laura's March a spectacular one that propels Laura's Fund onward with renewed vigor and financial security.

Be assured that The LKW Fund itself will continue its work in perpetuity and remain committed to its dual mission of ending sexual violence and helping survivors and supporting programs for children. We pledge to keep you informed of our activities as we move forward.

### LAURA'S MARCH PRIMARY BENEFICIARY PROGRAMS AND GOALS

- **H.O.P.E. Works** will expand free counseling and clinical support services to children, youth, and "their non-offending friends/family/loved ones."
- **Pride Center** will expand advocacy to LGBTQ immigrant farm workers and help them access opportunities and services, especially sexual violence-related services.
- **The Safety Team** will use the funds for its *Women Inspiring Safety and Empowerment* (WISE) program for high school and college women to teach them self-defense, self-advocacy skills, and comprehensive safety techniques.

## REMEMBERING DEBBIE GILBERT



Debbie Gilbert, who passed away in March, was a cherished friend of Laura and a founding member of the LKW Fund. She had a flair for bringing to our attention community programs in need of funds. She and Laura shared a passion for animal welfare, so it was especially significant to us to be able to provide over \$1000 in Camp Paw Paw summer camp scholarships with the funds many donated to us in Debbie's memory. We have also arranged for a memorial stone for Debbie on Church Street in Burlington and are currently awaiting its placement, which we will then announce.

*Here is Debbie running Registration at our Silent Auction.*

## DONATIONS UPDATE 2016

- In March, we contributed funds to Burlington's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Women's Day Celebration, an event that recognizes the triumphs and accomplishments of women.
- In May, we provided camp scholarship money to Camp Paw Paw, Burlington City Arts, and Dirt Divas and Rosie's Girls of Vt Works for Women.

## LAURA'S ART STUDIO AT KING STREET CENTER

**Laura's Art Studio** continues to attract leading artists to work with children on art projects that captivate and challenge creative minds. Having now raised \$28,000, we are closer to our goal of \$40,000 pledged to King Street Center. We very much welcome and appreciate your support.

## A THOUGHT...

*I dwell in possibility. – Emily Dickinson*

Possibility infuses our lives with hope. It reminds us that we can make better choices and make changes. It reminds us that we can survive hardships and ordeals and reclaim our lives. It reminds us that there are solutions to problems, that justice and equality and physical and emotional well-being are attainable goals. Believing in possibility assures us that we can consciously evolve our lives; and that belief, in itself, can have the power to transform our lives and enable us to prevail.

**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](http://www.firstgiving.com/lkwfund).**

With abiding gratitude for your support, we wish you a season of sunshine and possibility.